

## **RULE 4 - BROADCASTING/PHOTOGRAPHING PROCEEDINGS**

- 4.1** The Judge assigned to the Trial or Hearing may permit the broadcasting or recording by electronic means and the taking of photographs in Court proceedings that are open to the public as provided by Ohio law and in conformity with Rule 12 of the Rules of Superintendence of the Courts of Ohio.
- 4.2** Requests for variance from this Rule shall be submitted to the Judge in writing, and the Court's ruling on the request shall be made a part of the record.
- 4.3** The Judge shall specify the place or places in the Courtroom where media representatives are to be seated or positioned.
- 4.4** For recording and broadcast purposes, microphones and other electronic equipment necessary for the audio pickup shall be as inconspicuous as possible, but may be visible.
- 4.5** Arrangements between or among media for "pooling" of equipment shall be the responsibility of the media representatives. "Pooling" arrangements are to be made outside the Courtroom and without imposing on the Judge or Court personnel. If disputes arise over arrangements between or among media representatives, the Judge may exclude all contesting representatives from the proceedings.
- 4.6** The Judge may prohibit the use of electronic or photographic equipment that produces distracting sound or light. No artificial lighting other than that normally used in the Courtroom shall be employed.
- 4.7** To the extent practicable, media representatives shall be afforded a clear view of proceedings, but shall not be permitted to move about in the Courtroom during proceedings from the places where they have been positioned by the Judge, except to leave or enter the Courtroom. Provided, however, that once proceedings have commenced, the Judge may restrict media representatives from leaving or entering the Courtroom until an appropriate break in the proceedings is recognized by the Court.

- 4.8** There shall be no audio pickup or broadcast of conferences conducted in a Court facility between attorneys and clients or of conferences conducted at the Bench between counsel and the Judge.
- 4.9** Media representatives shall not be permitted to transmit or record anything other than the Court proceedings from the Courtroom while the Court is in session.
- 4.10** The Judge shall inform Jurors, Victims and Witnesses of their right to object to being filmed, videotaped, recorded or photographed, and media representatives shall honor any such objection. This Rule shall apply not only in the Courtroom but also within the Court facility and grounds.
- 4.11** Any violation of this Rule by a media representative may result in exclusion of that media representative and media source from further proceedings; confiscation of the media equipment then being utilized by the representative pending conclusion of the proceedings and further Hearing; and such other sanctions as the Court may deem appropriate for contempt.
- 4.12** This Rule shall not be construed to grant media representatives any lesser or greater rights than permitted by law.