

## VAN BUREN COUNTY - ALL COURT POLICY

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Request and Notice for Film and Electronic Media Coverage of Court Proceedings	<b>SECTION:</b> ADMINISTRATIVE	<b>DATE:</b> 10/14/16
<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Frank Hardester	<b>NUMBER:</b> <del>VBC-0118</del>	<b>RESCINDS:</b> n/a

Renumbered 9/16/20

### REFERENCES:

- MCR 8.110(C)(2)(e)
- Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 1989-1

### DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

- A. Film or electronic media coverage: any recording or broadcasting of court proceedings by the media using television, radio, photographic or recording equipment.
- B. Media or media agency: any person or organization engaging in news gathering or reporting and includes any newspaper, radio or television station or network, news service, magazine, trade paper, professional journal, or other news reporting or news gathering agency.

### BACKGROUND:

Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 1989-1 provides guidelines for film or electronic media coverage in all Michigan Courts. This policy addresses local practices beyond the guidelines established by the Supreme Court.

### POLICY STATEMENT:

- A. The court will follow the provisions of Supreme Court Administrative Order 1989-1.
- B. Requests for film or electronic coverage of individual court proceedings must be submitted on state form MC 27. The form must be submitted to the Trial Court Administrator not less than three (3) business days before the proceeding is scheduled to begin.
- C. Local media representatives may request an order allowing coverage of all Van Buren County Court proceedings for a one-year period.
1. The request for coverage for a one-year period will be made using local form VBC-1802. Complete the "REQUEST" section of the form. Submit the request to the attention of the Trial Court Administrator, 212 E. Paw Paw Street – Suite 205, Paw Paw, MI 49079.
  2. The Trial Court Administrator or their designee will notify the requesting media representative of the approval, and post a copy of the approved request outside the public entrance to each courtroom / hearing room and in nearby public areas at both courthouses.
  3. Upon expiration of the one-year period, a new request may be submitted for approval.
- D. Media representatives are allowed access to courtroom proceedings on a "first come, first served" basis. Neither the judges nor any other representative of the court will become involved in disputes among media representatives about who will or will not provide media coverage, or who will or will not participate in pooling arrangements. Lack of such agreements may result in denial of access to all media representatives.
- E. Unless permission is granted by the presiding judge or hearing official, media personnel are not permitted inside the litigation arena (the area encompassing the judge's bench; the law clerk/bailiff or judicial aide stations; the plaintiff and defendant tables; the speaker rostrum; and the jury box) while court is in session.

- F. All equipment must be positioned at the rear of the courtroom / hearing room prior to the time court is called to order. Equipment must not be removed from the courtroom / hearing room while court is in session.
- G. Pursuant to Supreme Court Administrative Order 1989-1, a judge may terminate, suspend, limit, or exclude film or electronic media coverage at any time upon a finding, made and articulated on the record in the exercise of discretion, that the fair administration of justice requires such action, or that rules established under the administrative order or additional rules imposed by the judge have been violated. The judge has sole discretion to exclude coverage of certain witnesses, including but not limited to the victims of sex crimes and their families, police informants, undercover agents, and relocated witnesses.
- H. Referees and Magistrates may exercise the authority set forth in item G of this policy and may seek the guidance of the presiding judge in making such determinations.

FORMS USED:

MC 27: Request and Notice for Film and Electronic Media Coverage of Court Proceedings

VBC-1802: Request and Notice for Film and Electronic Media Coverage of Court Proceedings (Blanket Request)

APPROVAL:

Date: October 17, 2016

  
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Kathleen M. Brickley, Chief Judge