



NOTICE OF PROPOSED LOCAL RULE AMENDMENT AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2071(b), the United States District Court for the District of Vermont announces a proposed amendment to Local Rule 83.2 governing courthouse security and the use of electronic devices in the District Court.

The purposes of this proposed amendment are to promote security for all persons who enter federal courthouses (or the portions of federal buildings occupied by the District Court), to protect the integrity of judicial proceedings, and to facilitate legitimate use of electronic devices within the parameters mandated by the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and the policies of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

The Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure prohibit the taking of photographs in the courtroom during judicial proceedings or the broadcasting of judicial proceedings from the courtroom. Additionally, Judicial Conference Policy states that courtroom proceedings in civil and criminal cases may not be broadcast, televised, recorded, or photographed for the purpose of public dissemination.

As technology advances, there are an ever-growing number of wireless communication devices that have the capability of recording and/or transmitting sound, pictures, and video. Many of these devices are also capable of wireless internet access. In order to comply with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Judicial Conference Policy, the court is posting for public comment proposed amendments to Local Rule 83.2 which sets forth the limitations on the use of electronic devices inside United States Courthouses within the District of Vermont. The proposed revisions are available on the court's website at www.vtd.uscourts.gov.

The open comment period is from February 15, 2013 to March 18, 2013. Comments on the proposed amendments to the Local Rule may be submitted to one of the addresses listed below:

In letter form to:

Jeffrey S. Eaton, Clerk of Court
Attn: Local Rules
U.S. District Court
P.O. Box 945
Burlington, VT 05402-0945

Via e-mail to:

Jeff_Eaton@vtd.uscourts.gov