

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
C44 #2004-01J, D53 #2004-01J, and P47 #2004-01J**

**COURTHOUSE DECORUM**

- (A) This administrative order applies to the conduct and dress of those who attend court, referee, or magistrate hearings, or engage in business in the courthouse, including attorneys, litigants, witnesses, jurors, and interested persons.
- (B) Court proceedings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the dignity and seriousness of the proceedings. Conduct by any person that may interfere with the decorum of the court is prohibited and may result in removal of that person from the court, or other sanctions.
- (C) Persons attending court in the courtrooms or hearing rooms, are required to abide by the following guidelines, which are representative rather than all-inclusive.
  - (1) Smoking, eating, drinking (excluding water provided by the court), and gum chewing are not allowed in any courtroom or hearing room at any time, whether during sessions of the court or at recess.
  - (2) Cameras, including cell phone digital cameras, are not allowed in the courtroom or hearing room without the expressed permission of the court. No photographs shall be taken in the courtroom or hearing room without the expressed permission of the court.
  - (3) Any conversation or the handling of reading material that could be heard by the judge, magistrate or referee while court is in session is prohibited.
  - (4) Demonstrations, placards, badges, T-shirts, and clothing that espouse a position on an issue before the court shall not be allowed without the expressed permission of the court.
  - (5) Individuals other than attorneys, court personnel, and jurors shall refrain from using the corridors between the courtrooms and chambers unless expressly authorized to do so by the court. Those authorized to use these corridors shall do so in a manner that does not disrupt courts or hearings which are in session.
  - (6) Cellular telephones, beepers and electronic or communication devices that have the capacity to disrupt court proceedings must be turned off or set for silent notification during sessions of the court. Individuals shall not answer telephones, beepers, or other electronic communication devices while the court is in session. Failure to comply with this section may result in confiscation of the telephone, beeper, or other electronic communication device, and/or a fine, incarceration, or both for contempt of court.

(D) Dress

- (1) Attorneys shall wear proper business attire while attending court, while court is in session, unless excused from doing so by the court.
- (2) Jurors, parties, and witnesses should wear proper attire while attending court, while court is in session, unless excused from doing so by the court.
- (3) Clothing such as short shorts, halter tops, sweat suits, camouflage garments, swimwear, exercise garb, and revealing garments such as tank tops shall not be permitted in the courtroom or hearing room.
- (4) All persons are required to remove hats, caps, veils, and hoods in the courtroom or hearing room, unless required of that persons religious practices and approved by the judge, magistrate, or referee.
- (5) The jury clerk shall assist the court in ensuring compliance with this subrule, and may require a juror whose clothing does not comport with (D)(2) and (3) to obtain appropriate attire or to report for service on a later date. A juror who fails to return to court as directed may be found in contempt of court and is subject to the penalties permitted by statute and court rule.

(E) It is within the judge's, magistrate's, or referee's discretion to have an individual removed from the courtroom or hearing room if the individual's conduct or dress does not comport with this order. Sanctions for contempt of court may be imposed by the Judge.

(F) Individuals other than those giving testimony shall stand at all times when addressing the court or jury, or when examining witnesses, unless excused from doing so by the court.

(G) Each business office of the court may set a policy regarding the use of cellular telephones, beepers, and other electronic or communication devices in that office.

IT IS SO ORDERED AND EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON THE SIGNATURE OF THE CHIEF JUDGES.

Date: 3-17-04



Hon. A. John Pikkarainen  
Chief Judge of the

53<sup>rd</sup> District Court

Date: 3/17/04



Hon. Susan L. Reck  
Chief Judge of the  
44<sup>th</sup> Circuit and Probate Courts