

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY  
EASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF GEORGIA

In re Electronic Devices

**STANDING ORDER**  
**ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHILE COURT IS IN SESSION**

FILED IN OFFICE

2013 AUG 26 A 11:16

*[Signature]*  
DEPUTY CLERK  
SUPERIOR CT.  
CHATHAM COUNTY, GA.

It is the finding of the judges of the Superior Court of Chatham County that court proceedings are continually disrupted due to the failure to silence electronic devices, particularly cellular phones. Maintaining decorum, good order and respect for the legal process demands that all electronic devices be silenced prior to entry into any courtroom when court is in session and prior to entry into a judge's chambers for any hearing or other proceeding.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, AS FOLLOWS:

Failure to silence all electronic devices, including mobile phones, beepers and watches, constitute direct contempt of court and an interference with the administration of justice and is punishable summarily. **Any device which makes any sound in a court proceeding will be immediately confiscated by the Sheriff's Department and disposed of as deemed appropriate by the Sheriff's Department.** Other sanctions may include a fine up to \$1,000 or a sentence of confinement not to exceed 20 days in jail or both.

This order shall not apply to the official communication equipment in the possession of employees of the Sheriff's Department. A copy of this Order shall be prominently posted in each courtroom.

SO ORDERED this 22 day of August, 2013.

*[Signature]*  
Michael L. Karpf, Chief Judge  
Eastern Judicial Circuit

*[Signature]*  
John E. Morse, Jr., Judge  
Eastern Judicial Circuit

*[Signature]*  
Penny H. Freeseemann, Judge  
Eastern Judicial Circuit

*[Signature]*  
Louisa Abbot, Judge  
Eastern Judicial Circuit

*[Signature]*  
James F. Bass, Jr., Judge  
Eastern Judicial Circuit

*[Signature]*  
Timothy Walmsley, Judge  
Eastern Judicial Circuit