

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

AUTHORITY:	Administrative Directive
RESCINDS:	Procedural Manual Item 3-1-213, dated 08/18/23
FORMS:	None
PURPOSE:	To provide for control and use of personal electronic devices by employees within juvenile detention/correctional facilities.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Maintaining a safe, secure, and well-supervised facility, is the foundation of all policies and procedures for juvenile facilities. The use of personal electronic devices including but not limited to cellular phones, laptop computers, **smart watches/iWatch**, televisions, iPods, iPads, electronic readers, or electronic games may cause unnecessary and unsafe distractions. The use of such devices by any Probation Department employee or visitor entering the facility is strictly prohibited except as noted in this policy.
- B. The Director or Assistant Director of a facility may authorize specific staff to use any such personal electronic device in the furtherance of official duties. Such authorization will be given in memo form and shall specify the reason for and duration of the authorization.
- C. This policy shall not restrict the use of any county issued electronic communication device used in the performance of official duties.

II. CELL PHONE PROCEDURE

- A. The use of personal cell phones while on duty is a distraction and seen as a misuse of county time. Probation staff are to keep their cell phones securely locked in their personal vehicle or assigned lockers while on duty.
- B. If staff choose to lock their cell phone in their assigned locker, the cell phone must be turned off prior to entering the facility.
- C. Staff are not to wear or carry their personal cell phones on their person while on duty.
- D. Staff are permitted to use their personal cell phones only if all the following conditions are met:
 - 1. The staff member is on an authorized break in compliance with all applicable policies and procedures.
 - 2. The staff member is out of sight of all youth.

3. The staff member is out of hearing range of all youth.

III. ELECTRONICS (OTHER THAN CELL PHONES) PROCEDURE

- A. All non-exempt staff entering a juvenile correctional facility shall turn off all personal electronic devices, including but not limited to laptop computers, televisions, iPods, iPads, electronic readers, and electronic games, prior to entering the facility.
- B. The use of a camera, video, game, or web browser functions on a personal electronic device is always prohibited while on duty.

IV. EXEMPTIONS

- A. Supervisors and Managers are exempt as long as the electronic device is used in accordance with their duties.
- B. DPCO night staff working during the hours of 10:00 pm – 6:00 am, typically have reduced active supervision responsibilities. Under the following conditions, they may utilize a personal electronic device when:
 1. The device is not utilized when youths are out of their rooms, causing a disturbance, or otherwise requiring staff supervision (i.e. during room checks).
 2. The device does not interfere with the duties performed by the staff.
 3. The device is to be at a volume that does not wake the youth or interfere with normal duties.
 4. Headphones are not used under any circumstances.
 5. The device does not interfere with productivity, movement, or present safety hazards to others.
 6. The device is never to be connected to the Probation Department/County Internet Services.
 7. The content from the device is appropriate (No ratings of R, NR, NC 17, X or explicit lyrics).
 8. The device is not used while outside the unit such as when moving from unit to unit or while conducting perimeter checks.
- C. **At no time may an electronic device be used while supervising a youth on Suicide Observation Status (SOS).**

V. EMERGENCIES

During declared department/county-wide emergency operations, the facility director or their designee may suspend the above prohibitions for the duration of the event to facilitate ongoing communication within and outside of the facility.

REFERENCES:

Procedures:	3-1-022	Cell Phones and Electronic Device Use by Outside Agencies
	3-11-002	Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) Automated Logbook and Manual Logbook
Policies:	C-16	Employee Conduct – On Duty
	G-12	Personally Owned Electronic Devices
	G-15	County's Information Technology Usage Policy
MOU:	Article I Section 3	Rest periods and Clean-up Time

P. Suzuki

APPROVED BY: