

Summary of issues/suggestions mentioned by regional EMC coordinators:

Rules regarding equipment/newsgathering practices:

- Number and kinds of devices should be expanded/ new types of newsgathering and publishing accommodated
- Electronic devices for purposes of news coverage should be allowed, so long as judge finds the device is not disruptive: Blogging/Tweeting/live chatting in the courtroom via laptops, tablets, phones
- Still cameras that shoot video/cell phones or tablets that shoot photos — accommodate reporter serving as photographer/videographer
- Many requests for live streaming court proceedings onto media outlet websites
- Number of “still cameras” allowed in courtroom is now two. Still photographers advocating that this be switched to two people, as they like bringing two camera bodies each to avoid having to do lens changes (which can be more distracting than switching cameras).

Placement of equipment:

- Where photographers are allowed to sit. Something that would explicitly say judges have discretion on this issue.
- Closed circuit initial appearances from jail. Sometimes closed circuit camera positioned in ways that allow faces of other defendants to remain visible on the screen.

Timing:

- Current 14-day deadline before judicial proceeding for submitting request. Many jurisdictions waive, especially for initial appearances, but is deadline necessary? Should it be shorter?
- If EMC request is received after the closed circuit appearance, should media get access to video from the appearance?

Procedural:

- Request for EMC still must be made to court in writing by mail. Outdated?
- Still have to ferry original paper copies of EMC requests to other counties in the predawn hours to get to court by 8 a.m. Can electronic PDFs or faxes be acceptable until the paper ones are received?
- Explicitly state that if EMC is granted, it is allowed in all proceedings included in a trial/case
- All hearings to challenge EMC of a proceeding should automatically be open to the public.
- Can an EMC website be created where a media outlet could request EMC for cases across the state? EMC coordinators can still manage requests for districts, but everything would be in one place.
- Display/availability of evidence for web audiences

- Construction of new courthouses should be planned to accommodate media coverage: Mic boxes in the sound system, a room where media could plug in court racks

Miscellaneous:

- Definition of “media.” Giving IDs to media who are allowed to cover proceedings, to distinguish from average citizens with cell phones.
- Admonish witnesses not to access digital media prior to testimony.