

## IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF IOWA

IN RE: MEDIA COVERAGE IN THE  
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-49

The last time an administrative order was entered regarding media coverage in the Fifth Judicial District was in 2000. Since the entry of that order, the rules on expanded media coverage (currently found at chapter 25 of the Iowa Court Rules) have been updated and construction or utilization of new court facilities in the district requires the revisiting of that prior order (Admin. Order 2000-14). Accordingly, the following is ordered:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that expanded media coverage in the Fifth Judicial District shall proceed as follows to ensure judicial decorum, safety and the security in placing of holding court in the district. The presence of still cameras, television cameras and related equipment, audio equipment, electronic devices and lighting equipment present safety and security concerns and detract from proper decorum in court facilities. Media coverage, including expanded media coverage, is at all times subject to reasonable security measures as determined to be appropriate by security officers and those county sheriff's deputies charged with providing security for places of holding court.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that still cameras, television cameras and related equipment, audio equipment, electronic devices and lighting equipment will be allowed for a reasonable period of time between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. before, during and after court proceedings in first floor rotunda areas of courthouses so designed or a public access area not directly adjacent to courtrooms of non-rotunda design courthouses without prior order for expanded media coverage. Specifically, the following areas are so designated within court facilities constructed or utilized after the entry of Administrative Order 2000-14:

1. The area between the public entrance and the security station located in the southeast corner of the Polk County Criminal Courts Building;
2. The area behind the public waiting area generally located in the northeast corner on the first floor of the Polk County Justice Center;

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3. The area between the public entrance and the security station in the Warren County Court Facility; and
4. The lobby adjacent to the E911 office in the lower level of the Warren County Justice Center.

The presence of still cameras, television cameras and related equipment, audio equipment, electronic devices and lighting equipment elsewhere in courtrooms in any place of holding court in the Fifth Judicial District shall continue to be governed by the Rules for Expanded Media Coverage found at chapter 25 of the Iowa Court Rules.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.



MICHAEL D. HUPPERT, CHIEF JUDGE  
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF IOWA

cc: Chief Justice Susan Christensen, Iowa Supreme Court  
Liaison Justice Edward Mansfield, Iowa Supreme Court  
State Court Administrator, Bob Gast  
Steve Davis, State Court Administration  
All Judges, Fifth Judicial District  
Polk County Sheriff, Courthouse Security  
Warren County Sheriff, Courthouse Security  
Clerk of Courts, Fifth Judicial District  
Jennay Towne, Media Coordinator  
Posting on Judicial Branch Website