

## *Equipment*

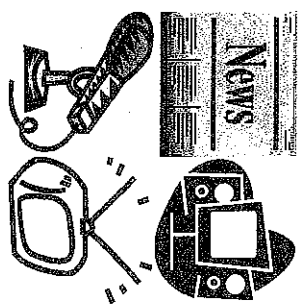
- Equipment shall have no distracting light or sound and can not bear media insignia. Existing courtroom equipment may not be modified without court approval.
- The court will determine designated equipment locations.
- All equipment must be set up 15 minutes in advance of the proceeding.
- No moving equipment once the proceeding commences, this includes changing film, lenses, or tapes.
- Media may use existing systems in the courtrooms, but if they are not sufficient, then media must provide their own equipment.

## *Contact Us*

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact us at:

SD Unified Judicial System  
500 E Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
(605) 773-3474 (Phone)

You may also visit our website at:  
<http://ujfs.sd.gov/>



*South Dakota  
Unified  
Judicial System*



*A Guide to  
Expanded  
Media  
Coverage in the  
Trial Courts*

## *The New Rule*

- Allows for expanded media coverage (audio or video) recording or broadcasting, televising, electronic recording, or photographing.
- The new rule applies only to **public** arguments, hearings, trials, or other proceedings in circuit or magistrate court.
- Camera and audio coverage is allowed with the consent of the judge and all parties involved. Consent must be in writing or on the record and made at least one week in advance of the proceeding. If any party objects, then photographic or video media coverage will not be allowed.
- Consent for audio coverage may be obtained from the judge presiding over the case so long as the request is in writing and made at least one week in advance of the proceeding.

## *Decorum*

- The courtroom may not be used to conduct interviews before or after the judicial proceedings. Coverage in chambers or in the jury room is prohibited.
- Media members are not permitted to photograph or record jurors or potential jurors in any manner at any time or during the jury selection process.
- Coverage cannot focus on or display materials on counsel table, judge's bench, or the clerk's table.
- Media coverage cannot capture conferences between attorneys and clients or sidebars between the court and counsel
- There shall be no recording or broadcasting in the courtroom during recess or any other time when the judge is not present.

## *Standards*

- Limit of one video camera in the courtroom to be operated by one camera person.
- Limit of one still camera photographer in the courtroom with two camera bodies.
- No coverage is admissible in evidence at a later proceeding unless ordered by the court.
- The media is responsible for resolving its own disputes, arranging pooling, and making sure they comply with the court's procedures.
- Media will work with the Circuit Court Administrator (media coordinator) for all arrangements.
- A copy of the complete Supreme Court Rule (10-09) is available on the UJS website at <http://ujis.sd.gov>.