

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER GOVERNING COURT PRACTICES FOR
BODY WORN CAMERAS IN ALL COURTHOUSE FACILITIES WITHIN
THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT**

The purpose of this Administrative Order is to establish guidelines and procedures for law enforcement using body worn camera (BWC) equipment within all courthouse facilities¹. Such regulation is within the Court’s inherent authority to take supervisory and administrative actions necessary to implement its judicial functions.

By the power vested in the chief judge under Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, section 43.26, Florida Statutes, and Rule 2.215 of the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, effective **immediately**, unless otherwise provided herein, to continue until further order and superseding any provisions in prior Administrative Orders that may be inconsistent, it is **ORDERED**:

1. The Court authorizes on-duty deputies employed by the Orange County and Osceola County Sheriff’s Offices to activate BWC equipment to record contact with an individual(s) in accordance with the respective Sheriff’s Office governing policies when: (1) there is a disturbance

¹ For purposes of this Administrative Order, the term “courthouse facility” or “courthouse facilities” means any building or structure in which judicial proceedings may be conducted, including, but not limited to: (1) Orange County Courthouse, located at 425 North Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801; (2) Osceola County Courthouse, located at 2 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, Florida 34741; (3) Thomas S. Kirk Juvenile Justice Center, located at 2000 East Michigan Street, Orlando, Florida 32806; (4) Orange County Booking and Release Center, located at 3855 South John Young Parkway, Orlando, Florida 32839; (5) Orange County Branch Courthouse – Apopka, located at 1111 North Rock Springs Road, Apopka, Florida 32712; (6) Orange County Branch Courthouse – Ocoee, located at 475 West Story Road, Ocoee, Florida 34761; and (7) Orange County Branch Courthouse – Winter Park, located at 450 North Lakemont Avenue, Winter Park, Florida 32789.

in the courtroom that may impede the function of the courtroom², or (2) when a deputy, in their professional opinion, determines that they will be required to engage in a law-enforcement related encounter. In such situations, a deputy may activate their BWC equipment until such time as, in their professional judgment, the incident has concluded.

2. BWC equipment shall not be activated in a courtroom during judicial proceedings except for those situations specified in paragraph 1. Unless dictated by operational need, the BWC equipment shall not be on silent mode; when activated, the light plus beep must be visible/audible for on-duty deputies assigned to court security wearing BWC equipment in a courthouse or courtroom.

3. Any deputy who activates BWC equipment in a courtroom must notify the presiding judge as soon as practicable and no later than the end of the court session. Additionally, Sheriff command must timely notify Court Administration, the Chief Judge or his/her designee when there is an activation.

4. Within one (1) business day of the emergency incident, the deputy or their supervisor shall provide to the presiding judge a written report of the circumstances surrounding the activation of the BWC equipment, including the times of activation and deactivation and an explanation of the deputy's actions.

5. Each Sheriff's Office of the Ninth Judicial Circuit is the custodian of any records captured by a deputy's BWC. A recording made in a courthouse or courtroom in connection with law enforcement activity shall not be released to anyone outside the Court and the Sheriff's Department with which the deputy is associated unless the recording has been provided to the Chief Judge or

² As used herein, the word "courtroom" includes courtrooms, hearing rooms, jury services assembly rooms, jury deliberation rooms, any location where jurors gather without regard to duration, and any other places used to conduct court proceedings, unless specifically stated otherwise.

designee in advance and with sufficient time to determine if there is confidential or exempt material contained within the recording. If BWC equipment records and stores any portion of a court proceeding, confidential, exempt or privileged material may not be released without Chief Judge or designee consent.

6. Except as provided above, activation of BWC equipment by any law enforcement officers working or conducting business in the court is prohibited inside all courthouse facilities and courtrooms.

DONE AND ORDERED at Orlando, Florida, this 22nd day of February, 2023.



Lisa T. Munyon
Chief Judge

Copies provided to:

Clerk of Court, Orange County
Clerk of Court, Osceola County
General E-Mail Distribution List
<http://www.ninthcircuit.org>