



Use of mobile telephones or personal digital assistants (PDAs) in courtrooms

Purpose

This policy permits the media to use mobile telephones or personal digital assistants (PDAs) in a limited way.

Application

This policy applies to journalists who work for recognised media organisations and who can provide appropriate professional identification.

Use of mobile phones and PDAs

Mobile telephones and PDAs must be switched off inside courtrooms. Journalists are exempt from this rule on the following conditions:

- the mobile phone or PDA is switched to "silent" and no verbal communication is made using the mobile phone or PDA
- the mobile phone or PDA is used only for electronic note-taking, text messaging or emailing
- they comply with any legislative requirement or any order of the presiding judge and
- use of a mobile phone or PDA does not cause any disruption to court proceedings.

Issued by

J J Spigelman AC
Chief Justice of NSW
On 5 November 2008