



Administrative Office of the Courts

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Rule 30 Media Guidelines

This document provides general guidelines for judges managing media organizations that have requested permission to cover public judicial proceedings.

- [Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 30](#): All media must formerly request permission in writing to cover public judicial proceedings. For assistance with media management prior to the proceeding, please contact samantha.fisher@tncourts.gov or 615-351-6003 (mobile).

■ Determine parameters for the media to follow prior to the proceedings:

- When media should arrive and set up
- Whether digital devices are allowed in the courtroom
- Whether there will be a designated “media room” where media can set up laptops, editing equipment, etc.
- Where and when media can do recorded segments like stand-ups and interviews (many judges prefer for these segments to happen outside the courthouse)
- How many cameras will be permitted (video and still cameras) and where those cameras can be placed in the courtroom
- Whether an audio line needs to be run from the courtroom to the media room, if a media room has been established
- If it’s a jury trial, ensure the media know the jury cannot be photographed or recorded at any time inside the courthouse and camera placement inside the courtroom must be examined to ensure the jury is not in the camera’s line of sight

■ Designated pool cameras

- If the proceeding garners considerable media attention, media who have requested permission to cover the proceeding must decide among themselves who will set up the “pool” camera(s) as required by Rule 30. Typically, TV news media selects a representative to handle the video feed and newspapers/digital publications select a representative to handle the still pool camera.
- Once the media has determined who their pool cameras will be, communicate those selections to all participating media and instruct them to work together.

■ Case documents

- Communicate the proper contact for media to obtain court documents related to the proceeding. This is typically the court clerk.