MUNICIPAL COURT

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS & SHORES DIVISION

90 KERBY ROAD GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MICHIGAN 48236-3161 PHONE 313.885.2104 FAX 313.882.8340

CHARLES T. BERSCHBACK JUDGE SUSAN E. THOMAS COURT ADMINISTRATOR

COURTROOM DECORUM:

USE OF CELL PHONES or OTHER PORTABLE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

IT IS ORDERED:

Pursuant to MCR 8.115 this policy governs the use of electronic communication devices in the Grosse Pointe Farms Municipal Court and the Shores Division of the Municipal Court.

Electronic communication devices must be set to silent mode prior to entering the courtroom. Definitions:

A "portable electronic device" is a mobile device capable of electronically storing, accessing, or transmitting information and includes, among other devices a smart phone, I phone, cell phone, watch, eyeglasses, laptop, tablet, notebook, transportable computer, personal digital assistant, camera, any audio or video recording device, and any other similar item that may provide access to the internet.

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- Upon entering a courtroom, attorneys, parties, and members of the public are permitted to use a silenced
 portable electronic device to retrieve or to store information (including notetaking), to access the internet,
 and to send/receive text messages/information. RECORDING OR STORAGE OF ANY
 INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONAL INFORMATION GIVEN WHILE IN THE COURTHOUSE OR
 COURTROOM IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED. Any use of a device in violation of these rules may
 result in seizure of the device and the user may be sanctioned.
- While within a courtroom or courthouse, a portable electronic device may not be used to make or to receive telephone calls or for any other audible function without permission of the Court.
- While within a courtroom or courthouse, a portable electronic device may not be used to communicate in any way whatsoever with another person in the courtroom or courthouse. This restriction includes attorneys, parties, members of the public, witnesses, and jurors.
- While within a courtroom, a party or witness may only use a portable electronic device while testifying with permission of the Judge.
- While within a courtroom, all jurors and prospective jurors must turn off their portable electronic device(s). During deliberations, the Judge may order jurors to turn over to the Court any portable electronic device, so long as the Court provides jurors with an alternative phone number so that a juror can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Attorneys, parties, and members of the public may use a portable electronic device to reproduce court
 documents in a designated court office so long as the process does not unreasonably interfere with the
 operation of the clerk's office and the device leaves no mark or impression on the document.
- No photographs may be taken of any jurors or witnesses.
- Failure to comply with this policy may result in a fine, including confiscation of the device, incarceration, or both for contempt of court.

Effective: January 1, 2022