

## PRESS RELEASE

A New Castle County Courthouse policy related to the "Prohibition on Cellular Telephones and other Personal Communication Devices in the New Castle County Courthouse" has recently been approved and will become effective in the New Castle County Courthouse on NOVEMBER 1, 2005. This policy recognizes the serious security concerns affecting Courthouse operations in an attempt to reduce security risks associated with cellular telephones and similar type communication devices. Cellular telephones can be tampered with to become stun guns or other weapons, used in activities to intimidate witnesses, and can present additional problems in camera phones' possible use in taking pictures in the courthouse that could assist in escape attempts or other security breaches.

The policy follows:

Security: Prohibition on Cellular Telephones and other Personal Communication Devices in the New Castle County Courthouse

- I. GENERAL PROVISIONS: For security reasons, all cellular telephones, camera phones or other personal communication devices (e.g. Blackberries, Sidekicks, pagers, PDA's etc.) are not permitted in the New Castle County Courthouse (NCCCH), with the exception of the persons specifically enumerated in II below, or as otherwise permitted by order of the judicial officer before whom the particular case or proceeding is pending. Any device found in the possession of a person in the NCCCH contrary to this policy may be subject to seizure and forfeiture.
- II. EXEMPT PERSONS: The following shall be exempt from the prohibition against carrying a cellular telephone, camera phone, Blackberry or other personal communication device into the NCCCH:
  - a. Judicial officers
  - b. Court employees assigned to work at the NCCCH
  - c. State employees who are entering the NCCCH on official business
  - d. Other persons who have regular business in the NCCCH and who present a picture identification badge issued by the Capitol Police
  - e. Attorneys who present a picture identification card and a valid Delaware Supreme Court issued membership card or proof of membership in another state's Bar
  - f. Persons with specific court function (building and maintenance tradesmen, equipment repairmen, vendors, etc.) may be permitted to retain their personal communication devices, upon a determination by the Capitol Police that they do not pose a security risk and the ability to access such devices is necessary for their work at the NCCCH.
  - g. Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement Officers on official business and possessing proper credentials.

To minimize the impact on the public, cell phone lockers will be provided in the parking garage connected to the New Castle County Courthouse, and public phone access within the Courthouse will be expanded.

DATE: September 23, 2005

CONTACT: Lt. Lee Clough, Capitol Police  
(302) 255-0016