

PRACTICE DIRECTION NUMBER 3 OF 2026

INDUSTRIAL COURT OF QUEENSLAND QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN COURTROOMS

1. This Practice Direction applies to all Industrial Court of Queensland (Court), Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (Commission) or Industrial Registrar's proceedings, noting that proceedings may be constituted at any place in Queensland.
2. The purpose of this Practice Direction is to clarify the permitted use of electronic devices and taking of photographs in courtrooms of the Court, Commission and Industrial Registry wherever held.
3. The following provisions are subject to any contrary direction made by a presiding judicial officer. Where the proceeding takes place in a courtroom, it is also subject to the relevant Magistrate, District or Supreme Court's practice direction applicable to that courtroom or building.

Definitions

4. In this Practice Direction:
 - (a) **accredited media**—means media personnel who are accredited pursuant to the Supreme Court of Queensland's *Media Accreditation Policy* (contained within the Supreme Court's *Amended Practice Direction 8 of 2014 – Photography and Electronic Devices in Court Buildings and Hearings* - <https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/going-to-court/court-resources/practice-directions>).
 - (b) **courtroom**—means any room in which a hearing or conference is taking place before a judicial officer.
 - (c) **electronic device**—means any device capable of sending, receiving, or recording data (including capturing images) or any combination of those functions and includes any camera, smartphones, smart watch, smart glasses, mobile phone, computer, laptop, tablet, notebook, personal digital assistants, or similar device.
 - (d) **judicial officer**—means the Member of the Court or Commission, or the Industrial Registrar, who is presiding in the particular matter.

Prohibition

5. Electronic devices may **not** be used in any courtroom unless permitted:
 - (a) by this Practice Direction; or
 - (b) by the judicial officer.

6. In addition, an electronic device may not be used in a courtroom:
 - (a) in a manner that interferes with the court recording system or other technology;
 - (b) in a manner that interferes with courtroom decorum, is inconsistent with the Court, Commission's or Industrial Registrar's functions, or otherwise impedes the administration of justice;
 - (c) in a manner that generates sound or requires speaking into the device;
 - (d) to take photographs or video images; or
 - (e) to record or digitally transcribe the proceedings except as permitted by this Practice Direction.
7. Accessing the internet via the Queensland Courts Public Safety Network Guest (PSNG) Wi-Fi service (see <https://www.qirc.qld.gov.au/services>) does not interfere with official court recordings and may be used as a way of communicating from within courtrooms providing the service.
8. Electronic devices may interfere with the recording of proceedings by official court reporting services if positioned too closely to microphones located within the courtroom. Even when muted or in passive mode, these devices may cause interference. Should any device interrupt or interfere with proceedings, the judicial officer may authorise the Associate or other appropriate officer to take possession of the device.

Use of electronic real-time text-based communications and social media by accredited media is permitted

9. Accredited media wishing to use electronic real-time text-based communications and social media to report proceedings may do so provided it does not interrupt the proceedings.
10. It remains the responsibility of the publisher to ensure that court reporting laws (for example, but not limited to, contempt of court provisions and those matters subject of a suppression order and/or the identification of vulnerable witnesses) are adhered to and non-publication orders are not breached. Accredited media should seek their own legal advice and set their own guidelines for reporting matters.
11. Parties' representatives may use electronic devices to send and receive text and other data in a discreet manner provided doing so does not interfere with the proceedings.
12. This Practice Direction does not impinge on a judicial officer's right to revise, subsequently, a judgment or decision delivered ex tempore; or a judicial officer's right, in a particular case, to prohibit the use of electronic real-time text-based communications and social media.

Private audio recordings by accredited media are permitted

13. The recording of proceedings issued by the official court reporting service is, and will remain, the authoritative record of proceedings.
14. Accredited media may make a private audio recording, provided it is done unobtrusively and without interruption to the proceedings. For that purpose:

- (a) a member of the accredited media may take a hand-held recorder into a courtroom and activate it;
 - (b) any such hand-held recorder must remain at all times in the physical possession of the member of the accredited media;
 - (c) any such hand-held recorder must be deactivated by the member of the accredited media during any adjournment of the proceeding.
15. The purpose of permitting such recording is to maintain accuracy in the reporting of proceedings. The audio content of the recording must not be broadcast or otherwise published.
16. This Practice Direction does not impinge on a judicial officer's right to revise, subsequently, a judgment or decision delivered ex tempore; or a judicial officer's right, in a particular case, to prohibit private audio recordings.

Police and Protective Services officers' body worn cameras

17. Police officers and Protective Services officers may not commence recording on body worn cameras in a courtroom or within the premises of the Court, Commission or Industrial Registry, other than in the following circumstances. A Police officer or Protective Services officer may commence recording on their body worn camera in a courtroom or within the premises occupied by the Court, Commission or Industrial Registry during any confrontational encounter between the officer (or another Police officer or Protective Services officer) and a person where the use of force appears reasonably imminent, or while effecting an urgent arrest caused by the behaviour of a person within the courtroom, or when that officer otherwise reasonably believes they may exercise a power under legislation.

Other restrictions on publication

18. Nothing in this Practice Direction alters the effect of any statute or order of a judicial officer restricting the publication of proceedings in a courtroom.

Photographs and video footage

19. Photographs or video footage may not be taken on any floor of the building occupied by the Court, Commission and Industrial Registry at Central Plaza 2, 66 Eagle Street, Brisbane without the express permission of the President, Vice President or Industrial Registrar.

Commencement

20. This Practice Direction will commence operation immediately.

Repeal

21. Practice Direction Number 5 of 2021 is repealed.

P. Davis
President
30 September 2026