



Supreme Court of Illinois

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ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT ANNOUNCES TWO CHANGES TO EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE POLICY

Chief Justice Rita B. Garman and the Illinois Supreme Court announced Friday two changes to the Court's Extended Media Coverage Policy now covering 41 counties in 15 Circuits where cameras are allowed on a pilot basis in Illinois trial courtrooms.

One change imposes a uniform reporting requirement on chief judges whose circuits are participating in the pilot program. A second change expands the number of persons who may give mandatory notice of a request by the media for extended media coverage in a particular case.

Both modifications are the result of best practices gleaned from Circuits and counties who have been implementing the experimental program since it was first announced by the Supreme Court in January 2012. The project was most recently expanded to include some criminal courts in Cook County.

Section 1.6 has been added to the policy requiring a judge in a proceeding where cameras were allowed to file a written report with the Chief Judge of the Circuit within a reasonable time after coverage is concluded. It proscribes the minimum information required in the report. New Section 1.6 also requires the Chief Judge of a Circuit approved for the pilot project to provide a quarterly written report to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and to the Supreme Court Justice or Justices (as in the case of the First District) where the judicial circuit is located. It also prescribes the information required. Copies of the Chief Judge's report shall also be filed with the Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Court and with the Supreme Court Director of Communications. All reports shall be confidential.

The other change announced Friday affects 1.3 (b) 2 of the Policy. Previously, a notice of a request for extended media coverage was required to be filed by the media coordinator, a person chosen by the media to act as a liaison between the Circuit Court and the media in matters pertaining to the coverage. During the continuing experimental phase of the project, it was discovered that in some

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cases this proved burdensome and less efficient. The change now allows the notice of request for extended media coverage to be filed either by the media coordinator, or by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, or by court media liaison assigned by the Chief Judge to monitor the process. As before, notice of the request shall be given to all counsel of record, parties appearing without counsel, the appropriate court administrator or court media liaison and the judge expected to preside.

The amended Extended Media Coverage Policy is posted on the Court's web site at http://state.il.us/court/Media/Extended_Media/Extended_Media.asp

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