

1.09A Extended Media Coverage

In this case, I have approved a request to allow the news media to film and photograph the proceedings. This is permitted by the Illinois Supreme Court and is subject to numerous restrictions contained in the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in the Circuit Courts of Illinois.

The policy in place regarding cameras in the courtroom is very strict and the court closely monitors every policy provision. In general, the policy permits the news media to film and photograph the courtroom setting, the participants in the trial, and any persons who might be in the audience. The policy does not permit the news media to film or photograph any of you as jurors or the jury panel as a whole in the courtroom and outside the courtroom.

The presence of cameras does not make this case more important than any other. All trials are equally important to the court and the involved parties. You should not draw any inferences or conclusions from the fact that cameras are present at this particular trial.

The news media is generally able to choose which portion or portions of the trial they wish to attend. Therefore, their attendance may be periodic from day-to-day. Also, for legal reasons, the news media may not be permitted to film and photograph certain witnesses. You are not to concern yourself with why certain witnesses are filmed and photographed and others are not.

Whether a particular witness is filmed or photographed is not any indication as to the value of, or weight to be given to, that witness's testimony.

You should ignore the presence of any cameras. If you find at any time that you are distracted or unable to concentrate because of the cameras, please notify me immediately.

Instruction, Notes on Use and Comment approved August 2018.

Notes on Use

The judge shall give this instruction to the jury at the commencement of any civil jury trial with an approved request for extended media coverage. Whenever the news media was present at any portion of the trial, the judge shall give IPI 1.09B before the jury begins its deliberations.

Comment

This instruction appears in the Illinois Supreme Court's Policy for Extended Media Coverage in the Circuit Courts of Illinois. The Illinois Supreme Court approved the Policy on January 24, 2012, and amended it on January 24, 2013, March 13, 2015, and February 22, 2016.