

# New Audio Recording Policy Effective Sept. 2, 2008



## ***What is the new audio recording policy?***

The new policy allows accredited members of the media to make audio recordings of court proceedings in the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta.

## ***Who will be allowed to record the proceedings?***

**ONLY** Accredited members of the media who have signed an undertaking will be permitted to bring audio recording devices into the courtrooms. The undertakings will be signed by the media organization and the individual journalist. Media representatives are required to notify the Court Clerk that they intend to record the court proceeding and/or to prominently display their identification card/badge while recording in a courtroom. They will also be required to produce photo identification when requested by court staff.

## ***Where does the policy apply?***

The policy applies to court proceedings in the Court of Queen's Bench in all judicial centres in Alberta.

***Please note that signs prohibiting recording in the courthouse will remain posted but will not apply to journalists with those media outlets that have executed the undertaking.***

## ***What are the restrictions on the use of the recordings?***

- Recordings are to be for verification purposes only
- Copying, selling and broadcasting the recordings are prohibited
- Recording devices must be unobtrusive and not disrupt the proceeding
- The Court Clerk and the presiding Justice must be informed in advance that the use of an audio recording device is proposed and/or prominently display their identification card/badge in the courtroom
- Recorded communication which does not form part of the official record, such as private conversations between counsel, cannot be used for any purpose
- The presiding Justice can still exercise the discretion to prohibit recording of all or part of the proceeding
- Use of video or still cameras in courtrooms are strictly prohibited

## **PROHIBITED USES OF AUDIO RECORDINGS**

- χ *Copying, selling or broadcasting court proceedings by any electronic means including radio, television, file-sharing or web transmission*
- χ *Transcribing audio recording*
- χ *Posting an audio file on a website*
- χ *Distributing audio file as an email attachment*
- χ *Creating a compact disk of audio recording*

**Use of video or still cameras in the courtrooms is still strictly prohibited.**

For more information about the policy, please contact

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