

Provincial Court of Alberta

Media Audio Recording Policy

Effective September 2, 2008

Members of accredited media organizations will be allowed to make audio recordings of court proceedings on the following conditions:

- (1) **Verification Purposes Only** - The recordings may be used for verification purposes only with the objective of ensuring the accurate reporting of court proceedings;
- (2) **Copying, Selling and Broadcasting Prohibited** - No portion of any court proceeding which is the subject of an audio recording shall be transcribed, converted into text, copied, sold or broadcast by any electronic means including radio, television, file-sharing or web transmission, the creation and distribution of a compact disc, the posting of an audio file on a Canadian or international website, or dissemination by e-mail as an attachment either within Canada or internationally;
- (3) **Notice to Presiding Judge and Signage** - The Court Clerk and the presiding Judge must be advised that a recording device is proposed for use in a court proceeding. Signage to that effect will be installed in all courthouses.
- (4) **Written Undertaking of Restrictions on Use** - Media organizations will be required to sign a written acknowledgment that recordings will only be used for verification purposes and under no circumstances will a voice file be transcribed, converted into text, copied, sold, or broadcast by any of the means outlined in paragraph (2) above. The Undertaking is the same as for the Court of Queen's Bench. A single registry of undertakings will be maintained, for all relevant courts, province wide.
- (4) **No Disruption** - The use of recording devices must not be disruptive of any court proceeding, nor shall devices be prominently displayed.
- (5) **Restricted to Proceedings on the Record Only** - Recorded communications which do not form part of the official record, such as private conversations between counsel and the presiding Judge or between counsel and clients shall not be used for any purpose; and
- (6) **Residual Discretion Resides in the Court** - The Judge presiding over the court proceeding shall continue to have the discretion to prohibit all or any part of a proceeding from being recorded. Since recording is otherwise allowed by accredited members of the media, reasons should be given for refusing the opportunity to record a proceeding.

“original signed by The Hon. Chief Judge A. Gail Vickery”
A. Gail Vickery, Chief Judge