## **Court Security**

## Introduction

Proceedings in the Supreme Court are almost always conducted in public. The Judges of the Court welcome members of the public to come and watch proceedings. However, there have to be restrictions on how members of the public are given access and on how they may behave while at the Court in order for the Court to conduct its proceedings safely and without interruption.

This page sets out those restrictions.

## Security

The Court conducts its business in a safe and secure environment. The security of the Court is governed by legislation known as the Court Security Act 2017. This applies to everyone who comes onto the Court premises. There are some exceptions listed in the Act.

Security officers are responsible for keeping the Court safe and secure, under directions from the judges and the Registrar. Security officers wear uniform and can be identified by a security badge worn on their shirts.

Visitors to the Court should note:

* Visitors to the Court must submit to a scanning in order to gain entry. In addition security officers are permitted to search any vehicles that come onto court premises or any person who comes onto court premises. The search may be visual, use a scanning device or a frisk search.
* Items that are not permitted to be brought onto court premises include firearms, explosive substances, weapons, alcohol, drugs, and items that are likely to affect adversely the security, good order or management of the court premises (including items that could pose a security risk). Security officers undertaking scanning may seize such items or any item which could hide such items or require that they be surrendered upon entry for collection at departure.
* Visitors to the Court are not permitted to use any electronic devices at the Court without permission. If you do see someone using a device, they may have been given permission by a judge already. Please do not assume it is Ok for you to do the same thing.
* A security officer can ask you to give your name, address, reason for attending and to provide some ID.
* CCTV is used throughout the Court for security purposes.
* Security officers may refuse entry or remove an individual from court premises if they refuse to comply with a requirement made or direction given to the individual under the Court Security Act 2017 or if they believe on reasonable grounds that the person is likely to affect adversely the security, good order or management of the court premises.

There are strict limitations regarding any form of recording/photography on court premises. Unauthorised recording, photography or transmission of court proceedings is an offence. If a security officer suspects that that an individual may have breached the restrictions they may direct them to stop, take the recording device, and delete the recording.

Requests for photography should be directed to the Registrar. Subject to any guidelines issued by the Judges, persons are permitted to take photographs or recordings in the court lobbies and outside the court without seeking permission.

It is an offence under the Court Security Act 2017 to:

* carry or possess on court premises items which could adversely affect the management of the court including firearms, alcohol, explosive substances and weapons or refuse to leave such an item with a security officer;
* fail to give your name, address and evidence of identity or reason for being within the court premises when requested to do so by an authorised officer;
* refuse to submit to a search, including a search of a vehicle that is on court premises upon request from a security officer;
* use an electronic device or refuse to hand over an electronic device to a security officer upon request;
* refuse to comply with the direction of an authorised officer given under the Court Security Act 2017;
* fail to comply with a direction from a judge.