



Supreme Court
of New South Wales

Media recording of court proceedings policy

1. Purpose

This policy sets out arrangements for the recording and dissemination of court proceedings by the media. The purpose of the policy is to ensure fair and accurate reporting of court proceedings.

2. Definitions

Decision in a final hearing means the final decision or judgment in civil proceedings and the sentencing of a convicted person or persons in criminal proceedings.

Media representative means a person engaged in preparing a report of court proceedings for a recognised media organisation, and who can provide appropriate professional identification

Publication means publishing, broadcasting, transmitting, printing or making available on the Internet or by other means

Recording means the capturing of audio and/ or visual content onto any medium for publication to assist in the preparation of accurate reports of court proceedings

3. Approval process

Upon application through the Public Information Officer a presiding judge may permit a media representative to make a recording of court proceedings. Where the request is for the purpose of publication, approval will only be given for the decision in a final hearing.

4. Proceedings not to be disrupted

It is a condition of approval that recording must not cause any disruption to proceedings.

5. Conversations not to be recorded

Recordings must not be made of private conversations before, during or after court proceedings.

6. Conditions for sound and/or visual recordings

The standard conditions for sound and/or visual recordings are as follows:

- only one piece of recording equipment is permitted in the courtroom and it will remain fixed in a pre-determined position

- only sound and images of the presiding Judge may be recorded*, and
- recording will be conducted on a 'pooled' basis. Vision and sound is to be shared with other media outlets as soon as practical after the conclusion of the proceedings. If the vision and sound is to be broadcast live, all media outlets present must have equal opportunity to access the live feed at the same time.

* Media representatives wishing to record sound or images of any other person in the courtroom must first seek the presiding judicial officer's approval. Media representatives may send their requests to the Public Information Officer, who will liaise with the relevant judicial officer. The request must identify the recording subject's role in the proceedings (e.g. Crown Prosecutor, defence counsel, witness) and, wherever possible, his/her name. It should also explain how the proposed additional sound or vision would improve the accurate reporting of proceedings.

7. Official record of proceedings

The transcript produced by the Reporting Services Branch is, and will remain, the authoritative record of proceedings.

Issued by

J J Spigelman AC

Chief Justice of NSW

16 December 2009