

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission
Policy on Public Access for Hearings**

The Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission's ("Commission") adjudicatory hearings are generally open to the public, unless the presiding officer determines that closure is necessary to protect privacy interests and will not be contrary to the public interest. This policy shall apply to all adjudicatory hearings, including, but not limited to, those conducted under 555 CMR 1.09 and 1.10.

Use of electronic equipment, such as laptop computers, tablets, smart phones, and other mobile electronic devices, is generally permitted at hearings, unless prohibited by the presiding officer. Notification sounds and alerts on all devices must be set to silent. In order to conduct fair hearings, without interruptions or distractions, the presiding officer may impose limitations on photography, videography, and other electronic recording of all or portions of a hearing. All attendees who intend to engage in the activities listed below must complete the hearing registration form, which will be available on the Commission's website prior to the scheduled hearing and submit a request.

If the presiding officer grants permission for public access, the following restrictions shall apply, unless specifically waived, amended or supplemented by the presiding officer.

- a. Still and video cameras, and other equipment used to record, must be positioned where they will not distract from, or interfere with, the hearing. They may not be moved from their stationary positions during the hearing. Photographers must position themselves where they will not interfere with the hearing and may not change position during the hearing. Lenses and other equipment may be changed only during breaks in the hearing.
- b. Still and video cameras, including cell phones, must use available light. Flash may not be used at any time. Use of any camera or other device that is not completely silent is prohibited during the hearing.
- c. Audio-recording equipment must be positioned and utilized in a manner where it will not interfere with the hearing.
- d. There shall be no live broadcasting of any portion of the hearing.

All attendees must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with standards of decorum commonly observed in any court. See 801 CMR 1.01(10)(d). Nothing included in this policy shall be construed to limit or restrict the presiding officer, at any time during the course of the hearing, from prohibiting the use of any electronic equipment, and imposing additional restrictions up to and including removal of an attendee and closure of the hearing.

Any questions regarding this policy may be directed to the Commission's Communications and Media Relations Manager Alia Spring at alia.spring@mass.gov or 617-701-8404.