

Courts of Justice Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.43

Prohibition against photography, etc., at court hearing

136 (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), no person shall,

- (a) take or attempt to take a photograph, motion picture, audio recording or other record capable of producing visual or aural representations by electronic means or otherwise,
 - (i) at a court hearing,
 - (ii) of any person entering or leaving the room in which a court hearing is to be or has been convened, or
 - (iii) of any person in the building in which a court hearing is to be or has been convened where there is reasonable ground for believing that the person is there for the purpose of attending or leaving the hearing;
- (b) publish, broadcast, reproduce or otherwise disseminate a photograph, motion picture, audio recording or record taken in contravention of clause (a); or
- (c) broadcast or reproduce an audio recording made as described in clause (2) (b). R.S.O. 1990, c. C.43, s. 136 (1).

Exceptions

(2) Nothing in subsection (1),

- (a) prohibits a person from unobtrusively making handwritten notes or sketches at a court hearing; or
- (b) prohibits a lawyer, a party acting in person or a journalist from unobtrusively making an audio recording at a court hearing, in the manner that has been approved by the judge, for the sole purpose of supplementing or replacing handwritten notes. R.S.O. 1990, c. C.43, s. 136 (2); 1996, c. 25, s. 1 (22).

Exceptions

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply to a photograph, motion picture, audio recording or record made with authorization of the judge,

- (a) where required for the presentation of evidence or the making of a record or for any other purpose of the court hearing;
- (b) in connection with any investitive, naturalization, ceremonial or other similar proceeding; or
- (c) with the consent of the parties and witnesses, for such educational or instructional purposes as the judge approves.

Offence

(4) Every person who contravenes this section is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or to both. R.S.O. 1990, c. C.43, s. 136 (3, 4).

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)