



THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

JUDGES' CHAMBERS, SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL, P.O. BOX 258, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9300
FAX: (051) 447 8098

REGTERSAMERS, HOOGSTE HOF VAN APPEL, POSBUS 258, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9300
FAKS: (051) 447 8098

PRACTICE NOTICE 1/2009:
EXPANDED MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SCA

The Court receives from time to time requests for permission to film or record court proceedings. In order to standardize the procedure, the following guidelines are provided.

1. The Court grants the necessary leave in general terms subject to the provisions set out below.
2. Any party who wishes to film or record proceedings must notify the registrar of its intention at least 24 hours beforehand. The registrar will then establish from the presiding judge whether there is any particular objection to the request.
3. Any party who wishes to object to any filming or recording must raise its objections in writing.
4. The Court may on good cause in any particular case withdraw the leave or change the conditions.
5. Equipment Limitations:
 - a. Video: one camera only may be used at a time and the location of the camera is not to change while the court is in session.
 - b. Audio: the media may install their own audio recording system provided this is unobtrusive and does not interfere with proceedings. Individual journalists may bring tape recorders into the court room for the purposes of recording the proceedings but changing of cassettes is not permitted while the court is in session.

- c. Still Cameras: Only one photographer allowed and the location of the camera is not to change and no changing of lenses or film is permitted while the court is in session.
 - d. All camera, video and audio equipment must be in position at least 15 minutes before the start of proceedings and may be moved or removed only when the court is not in session. Cameras, cables and the like are not to interfere with the free movement within the court.
 - e. Lighting: no movie lights, flash attachments or artificial lighting devices are permitted during court proceedings.
 - f. Operating Signals: no visible or audible light or signal may be used on any equipment.
6. Pooling Arrangements:
- a. Only one media representative may conduct each of the audio, video and still photography activities.
 - b. This media representative is to be determined by the media themselves and is to operate an open and impartial distribution scheme, in terms of which the footage, sound or photographs would have to be distributed in a 'clean' form, that is, with no visible logos etc to any other media organization requesting same and would also be archived in such a manner that it remains freely available to other media.
 - c. If no agreement can be reached on these arrangements, no expanded media coverage may take place.
7. Rules regarding behaviour of media representatives:
- a. Conduct must be consistent with the decorum and dignity of the court.
 - b. No identifying names, marks, logos or symbols should be used on any equipment or clothing worn by media representatives.
 - c. ALL representatives (including camera crew) must be appropriately dressed.
 - d. Equipment must be positioned and operated to minimize any distraction while court is in session.
 - e. Equipment must not be placed in or removed from the court room.
 - f. No film, videotape, cassette tape or lens may be changed.
8. There is an absolute bar on:
- a. audio recordings or close up photography of bench discussions;

- b. audio recordings or close up photography of communications between legal representatives or between clients and their legal representatives;
- c. close-up photographs or filming of judges, lawyers, or parties in court;
- d. recordings (whether video or audio) being used for commercial or political advertising purposes thereafter;
- e. use of sound bytes without the prior consent of the presiding judge.

(This does not apply extracts from judgments or orders.)

9. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY LEAD TO CONTEMPT OF COURT PROCEEDINGS.