

# TRIAL REPORTER

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## Family Law & the Child

**Recent Developments and Trends in Maryland Custody Law**

**A Legal and Psychiatric Guide to The So-Called "Parental Alienation Syndrome"**

**Family Law from the Perspective of a Same-Sex Couple**

**Parent Coordinators: The Latest Model to Resolve High Conflict Custody Cases**

**How Collaborative Practice Benefits Children**

**Adoption in Maryland Moves Forward**

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## Courthouse Technology

To most people, the courthouse is a symbol of the rule of law and the orderly administration of justice. Within those walls, however, is the usual institutional maze of people, departments, and bureaucracy. For the practitioner, a seemingly simple task like bringing a projector into the courtroom can be thwarted unless the proper protocols are followed. For example, some courts require prior approval of the judge, security, IT department, and/or the court administrator.

Failure to have the proper documentation beforehand means you might be trying your case the old-fashioned way. Additionally, some courts still exclude cell phones, which can cause problems if it is your only link to your client before a trial, or if it is a smartphone containing your schedule prior to a scheduling conference.

Knowing the proper protocols and procedures beforehand will allow you to plan accordingly. This chart lists the technol-

ogy allowed and available in the Maryland Circuit and federal courts, as well as the approval process for bringing outside technology into the courtroom. A full chart including the Maryland District courts and the D.C. courts, is available on-line at [www.mdtriallawyers.com/MD/docDownload/11179](http://www.mdtriallawyers.com/MD/docDownload/11179). ■

### About the Author

**John Cord** (Janet, Jenner & Suggs, LLC) graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law in May 2003. Mr. Cord concentrates his practice on assisting victims of birth trauma and other serious injuries of medical negligence. He is licensed to practice in Maryland, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Minnesota. He is a member of the American Association for Justice and is the current chair of the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association Technology Committee.

Court	Cell Phones	Computers	Equipment Available	Outside Technology
Allegany	Allowed	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD, Projector	Judge Approval
Anne Arundel	Allowed	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD, Projector, Document Camera	IT Department Approval (888.246.0615)
Baltimore City	Allowed	Allowed	TV, VCR	Court Administrator Approval (410.396.4713)
Baltimore County	Allowed	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD, Projector, Document Camera, Evidence Station	Judge & Security Approval
Calvert	Allowed	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD	Judge & Security Approval
Caroline	Allowed	Not Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD	Judge & Security Approval
Carroll	Not Allowed	Judge Approval	TV, VCR, DVD, Projector, Document Camera	Judge Approval
Cecil	No Camera Phones	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD	Judge Approval
Charles	Bar Card Needed*	Bar Card Needed*	TV, VCR, DVD	Bar Card Needed*, Security Approval
Dorchester	Not Allowed	Judge Approval	TV, VCR	Judge Approval
Frederick	No Camera Phones	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD (fee required)	Security Approval
Garrett	Allowed	Judge Approval	TV, VCR	Judge Approval
Harford	No Camera Phones	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD	Security Approval
Howard	No Camera Phones	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD	Security Approval
Kent	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	TV	Judge Approval
Montgomery	Allowed	Judge Approval	TV, VCR, DVD, Projector, Document Camera	Judge Approval
Prince George's	No Camera Phones (unless approved by admin. judge)	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD, Evidence Station with Document Camera (training required)	Administrative Judge Approval (301.952.3728)
Queen Anne's	Not Allowed	Judge Approval	TV, VCR, DVD	Judge Approval
Somerset	Not Allowed	Judge Approval	TV, VCR, DVD	Judge Approval
St. Mary's	Allowed	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD	Court Administrator Approval (301.475.7844)
Talbot	Allowed	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD	Judge Approval
Washington	No Camera Phones	Allowed	TV, VCR, DVD	Court Administrator Approval (240.313.2545)
Wicomico	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	TV, VCR, Projector Screen (10 days notice)	Judge Approval
Worcester	Not Allowed	Judge Approval	TV, VCR, DVD	Judge Approval
U.S. District Court (Baltimore)	Allowed	Judge Approval	TV, VCR, DVD, Document Camera, Whiteboard, Videoconferencing, (30 days notice)	IT Department's Approval (410.962.3767)
U.S. District Court (Greenbelt)	Allowed	Judge Approval	TV, VCR, DVD, Document Camera, Whiteboard, Videoconferencing (30 days notice)	IT Department's Approval (301.344.3120)

\*Bar cards are available through the MSBA