

Nebraska Protocol for Sharing Court Camera Pool Coverage

Expanded News Media Coverage in Nebraska Trial Courts

Video and still photography are allowed through a pool arrangement during many proceedings in Nebraska's courts. These procedures and recommendations are designed to give some guidance to Nebraska media organizations wanting to take part in pool coverage of a hearing, trial or sentencing.

VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING

- A media organization becomes part of a pool when it applies to be included in Expanded Media Coverage of a specific court proceeding. (That procedure can be found here: <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/media>)
- Only media organizations attending the court proceeding are guaranteed receipt of the digital material.
- A single video camera and/or audio feed will be designated as the pool feed. Generally, it is the first organization to be approved for coverage by the court. In the event of a trial or lengthy hearing, media organizations may wish to organize a rotating schedule.
- Files are expected to be transferred at the courthouse during breaks or at the conclusion of the proceeding.
- Sometimes camera pooling requires creativity and flexibility. Media on site should be prepared to cooperate to provide the best result possible for all participants.

The media organization providing pool video should be prepared with the following:

- The pool camera is obligated to provide the resources to duplicate and distribute digital files.
- At a minimum, the pool camera must record in HD format onto a memory card or USB drive.
- Camera operators must determine in advance if the courtroom audio system has a usable audio outlet. If not, some courts allow discreet placement of microphones. Any microphone cables must be taped down in advance of the proceedings.
- All organizations covering the proceedings should bring their own a laptop computer to expedite file transfers. A backup USB drive/stick is recommended as well. (Consider the amount volume of material you may be transferring and come equipped with sufficient memory.)

Livestreaming:

- If a media organization plans to live stream or directly record the proceedings, it is recommended you make arrangements with the pool camera in advance to determine what cabling or splitter equipment needs to be on site. (NOTE: Not all rural courthouses can provide Wi-Fi or strong cell phone connections)
- Anything uploaded to an outside site is the responsibility of the pool photographer, whether permission is asked or not. The individual or entity shooting the video or photo inside the courtroom is responsible for the final image presented to the public. Do NOT post raw view. Edit wisely.
- **If you are livestreaming, put a bug on the video indicating your station ID so that your product will indicate it is copyrighted (see note above – cutaways and unintended audio pick up is the responsibility of the photographer.)**

STILL PHOTOGRAPY

- All media organizations on site are entitled to still photos from the pool photographer.
- Still photos may be provided onsite to participants, emailed to a designated address, or distributed using a "cloud" dropbox within an hour of the conclusion of the hearing.