



OFFICIAL SENATE IMPEACHMENT HEARING GUIDELINES

PUBLIC ACCESS

Guidelines for Public Access to the Northern Mariana Commonwealth Legislature (NMCL) Senate Gallery and Lobby during the Impeachment Hearing proceedings.

The impeachment hearing proceedings are a hearing proceeding and not a regular session day. To ensure access by the public and preserve the integrity of the hearing proceedings in which the members of the Senate serve as jurors, the following guidelines will be in use:

Live Stream

The impeachment hearing proceedings will be live streamed for the public on cable TV on Channel 23 and/or Facebook at www.facebook.com/cnmilegislature.

Admittance

All persons seeking admittance to the NMCL Senate gallery or lobby shall sign-in at the required check-point of the Senate entrance.

After signing-in, each person shall receive a numbered pass which shall be worn by the person in plain sight. When exiting the Senate gallery or lobby, the pass shall be returned to the door-person on duty. Once a person exits the gallery or lobby, they shall only be allowed re-admittance if seating is available.

Seating

Seating in the Senate gallery and lobby shall be available to the public on a first come, first serve basis. Select seating in the Senate gallery is reserved for media access. Proper pass or credentials must be shown to gain admittance to the Senate gallery and lobby.

Rules During Impeachment Hearing

All persons seated in the Senate gallery and lobby shall abide by the following guidelines:

- No food, beverages, or gum;
- Mobile phones, PDAs and related electronic devices must be turned OFF (vibrate is not acceptable);
- No cameras;
- No electronic music devices or games;
- No talking, clapping or other demonstrations; and
- All persons shall remain seated at all times except during recess.
- During recess, all persons except the Senate members and authorized persons shall exit the Senate gallery.

Tents

Tents may be set up outside the Senate in the designated concrete area near the parking lot of the Legislature upon request to the Director of the Legislative Bureau.

A violation of any of the stated rules and guidelines will result in the immediate removal from the Senate gallery or lobby and bar readmittance for the remainder of that day of the impeachment hearing proceeding.

These guidelines supplement any provisions regarding the Senate gallery that are contained in the official rules of the 22nd NMCL Senate and any rules that may be adopted in regards to a hearing on impeachment.



OFFICIAL SENATE IMPEACHMENT HEARING GUIDELINES

MEDIA ACCESS

Guidelines for Media Access to the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature (NMCL) Senate Gallery and Corridors during the Impeachment Hearing proceedings.

The impeachment hearing proceedings are a hearing proceeding and not a regular session day.

To ensure access by the media and the integrity of the hearing proceedings in which the members of the Senate serve as jurors, the following guidelines will be in use:

1. All Senate Rules regarding media apply as contained in the 22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature (NMCL) Official Rules of the Senate.
2. All reporters must register with the NMCL Legislative Bureau and have a press pass or media credentials issued by the NMCL Legislative Bureau. To register, please contact the Director of the Legislative Bureau.
 - (a) Credentials will be date specific and issued to members of the media at the Senate check point.
 - (b) Each media organization will receive 1 (one) credential per day.
 - (c) Credentials will be available for distribution at the Senate entrance two hours prior to the start of the Senate impeachment hearing proceedings.
3. Reporters & staff must be appropriately dressed in the Senate gallery and press boxes.
4. Seating in the Senate gallery and press boxes shall be determined by the Senate President pursuant to Rule 5, Section 7 of the Official Rules of the Senate.
5. Priorities for the media in the press box area are:
 - a. CNMI media
 - b. Regional and National media
 - c. Foreign media
6. Reporters are only permitted in the designated media area of the Senate gallery. This area will not be available for video cameras.
7. Reporters may record the official impeachment hearing proceedings except during recess. Provided that any recording at the designated media area of the Senate gallery shall not obstruct the view of persons sitting in the gallery behind the reporters.
8. Live shots and interviews from the Senate gallery, the press boxes or the side corridors are permitted except 15 minutes prior to or during the proceedings. An announcement that the Senate is preparing to convene will take place 20 minutes prior the start of business. A 15-minute announcement will also take place, serving as the final "wrap-up" announcement for the media.
9. In order to maintain the decorum and protocol, use of mobile phones will be prohibited in the Senate gallery and press boxes. The use of computers in the gallery is permitted.
10. Still photographs may be taken without flash from the press box on the Senate floor and the media area of the Senate gallery.
11. The corridor behind the Senate Chamber will be partially cordoned off during the hearing proceeding in order to secure witnesses. This will occur 15 minutes prior to the start of Senate business.
12. Video cameras will be permitted only at the designated press boxes on the Senate floor due to limited space/seating.
13. Standing in the floor press boxes is prohibited (still photographers are exempted).