

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN
AND FOR SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. S-2008-30

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RELATING
TO SECURITY OF THE COURT**

The purpose of this Order is to establish regulations and procedure for security in the Sumter County Judicial Center. The authority to promulgate and enforce such regulations and procedures is inherent to the Court.

Definitions

Judicial areas as used herein, shall mean any area in the Sumter County Judicial Center (“Courthouse”) in which any or all of the Circuit or County Court Courtrooms, Judges’ offices and chambers are located.

“Prohibited weapon”, as used herein, means a firearm; a knife, dirk, metallic knuckles, slingshot, billie, teargas gun, chemical weapon, or device, or other deadly weapon; any explosive or incendiary advice, whether real or hoax; or any thing designed, made or adapted for the purpose of inflicting bodily injury.

Applicability

These rules and regulations apply to all persons entering in or on such property except those persons expressly exempted hereafter.

Admission Searches

No person other than law enforcement officers, may enter the judicial areas, as defined above, carrying a prohibited weapon as above defined, subject only to the limited exceptions set forth herein.

Packages

All packages, briefcases, and other containers in the immediate possession of persons entering the judicial areas as defined above shall be subject to inspection. No person other than those persons exempted from passing through the magnetometer by the other provisions of this order shall be permitted to carry a package, briefcase or other container into the

courtroom area unless such package, briefcase, or other container has been inspected by authorized personnel to determine that it does not contain a prohibited weapon.

Inspection of packages, briefcases, or other containers may be carried out by authorized personnel by visual inspection of the interior of such containers or by x-ray or other electronic survey of the contents thereof.

Explosives

No person entering the judicial areas shall carry or possess explosives, or items intended to be used to fabricate an explosive or incendiary device, either openly or concealed, except for official purposes.

Weapons Prohibited

No persons, subject only to the exceptions contained herein, shall carry or bring a prohibited weapon into a judicial area. The immediately preceding sentence shall not apply to judges, to court bailiffs, to sheriffs' office security personnel, to law enforcement officers as that term is defined by Florida Statutes, or to situations where unloaded firearms and prohibited weapons which are to be introduced into evidence at a trial or hearing or used for demonstrative purposes in a trial or legal proceeding scheduled in the building into which it is brought.

This prohibition does apply, however, to any person who is a witness, party, or a disinterested observer in an adversarial hearing or official court proceeding. Such persons may not carry or have in his/her possession any weapon as defined above, in the courtrooms or hearing rooms during such official proceeding.

Prisoner Custody

Prisoner custody in courtrooms, hearing room, or chambers: no person, who has close custody of a prisoner within the above defined areas, may carry a weapon as defined above. Prisoners shall never be left anywhere in the Judicial Center without responsible law enforcement personnel having custody of that prisoner.

Cell Phones, Cameras or Other Electronic/Technical Equipment

Subject to previous orders concerning high profile trial procedures, Courthouse Security Personnel shall have full authority to assess security restrictions as to these devices. Each individual Judge can make any further restriction on these devices as is necessary and comfortable for that Judge to conduct proceedings in their individual courtroom or chambers. That Judge shall be responsible for advising the bailiff staff as to those limitations.

Courthouse Decorum

For sanitary reasons and the personal welfare and safety of all visitors and personnel, all persons entering the Judicial Center shall wear appropriate attire, including but not limited to, shirts and shoes. Each individual Judge shall make a determination as to any dress code applicable to his or her individual courtroom and shall so advise the bailiff staff as to those limitations.

Food and Drink

As is the rule in most courthouses in this state, no food or drink shall be allowed in the courtrooms. This limitation may be modified by each individual Judge as to their individual courtroom.

Authority to Vary

There should be few, if any, exceptions to this order. Nevertheless, no order can be drawn to cover every possible factual possibility. If special circumstances arise, which parties aggrieved by this order feel warrant an exception to this order, they must consult with the head of Sheriff's security, or his designee, the Chief Bailiff or his designee. The Chief Bailiff, or his designee, shall have the discretion to determine procedures and methods to maintain security at the courthouse if those procedures and methods are not contained in this order.

Severability

In the event any paragraph(s), sentence(s) or word(s) of these regulations and procedures shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining paragraphs, sentences or words of these regulations and procedures.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, at Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida, on this 15th day of August, 2008.



William H. Hallman, III
Administrative Judge
Sumter County, Florida