

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.:  
23-36  
**SUPERSEDES 98-10**

**IN RE: JUDICIAL FACILITIES - COURTHOUSE SECURITY**

---

Whereas, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit are of primary concern to this court; and

Whereas, court proceedings may be fraught with extreme emotionalism and danger; and

Whereas, it has come to the attention of the Court that persons have sought to enter or remain in one or more of the County Courthouses while in possession of weapons or firearms, either in view or concealed; and

Whereas, this constitutes a potential danger to all persons lawfully on the premises of these facilities; and

Whereas, the administrative supervision of the Courts within this judicial circuit is the responsibility of the Chief Judge, as provided in Rule 2.050, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Anyone entering the Courthouse shall be subject to an administrative search, which may include the use of electronic or other specialized equipment.
2. Anyone, except as provided herein, possessing any weapon(s), hazardous material(s) of any kind, or prohibited item as set forth in Section 4. , shall be denied access to the Courthouse unless said item(s) are surrendered to the proper authorities or returned to a vehicle if determined not to be illegal to possess.
3. Anyone who refuses to submit to a search of his/her person or his/her bag, briefcase, pocket book, baggage or other similar items shall be denied access to the County Courthouses.
4. The following items are prohibited in the Courthouse: Firearms, Knives of any size, Razors, Box Cutters, Pepper Spray, Mace, Ballistic Vests or Body Armor, Oversized Belt Buckles, Hand Tools, Padlocks, Pointed Scissors, Handcuff Keys, Glass Bottles, Large Chains, Vaping Devices, Lighters, . and any other weapon, device, material or item deemed prohibited by security personnel.

5. If any illegal weapons, explosives, hazardous materials or contraband are discovered, the proper law enforcement officials shall be notified immediately for appropriate action.
6. No person, other than those set forth below, shall be permitted to enter or remain in any Courthouse while in possession of any prohibited item as set forth in Section 4.
  - a. Authorized law enforcement personnel entering in his/her official capacity.
  - b. Personnel of the Office of the State Attorney qualified to carry firearms or weapons pursuant to Florida Law and as confirmed authorized by the Chief Judge, the Sheriff where the Courthouse is located and the State Attorney and if entering in his or her official capacity.
  - c. Employees of an office located within any Courthouse entering with personal use items as approved by Security Staff.
  - d. Authorized employees of a law enforcement agency, the Office of the State Attorney, and the Clerk of the County and Circuit Courts holding any prohibited item as evidence.
  - e. Members of the Judiciary.
7. Any person, including those otherwise authorized in Section 6 who enters the Courthouse as a private party to a court matter, as a defendant, or as a respondent in a court matter may not enter with any prohibited item as set forth in Section 4
8. Authorized personnel performing structural maintenance that requires the use of otherwise prohibited tools (i.e. power tools, box cutters, scissors, etc.) at any Courthouse may bring such tools as required to perform the contracted task. Persons performing maintenance or construction at the Courthouse remain subject to search and may not have in his/her possession firearms, weapons, or other items prohibited by the security staff.
9. As a condition of entry to court facilities, security personnel are authorized to require removal of head coverings, masks, hoods, helmets, costumes and other accoutrements that disguise or obscure the identity of the person.

Any person with weapons, firearms, or prohibited items shall be directed out of the Courthouse; should they deliberately seek to reenter or remain in said Courthouse while possessing weapons, firearms, or prohibited items, they shall be deemed to have trespassed after warning, arrested and the weapon, firearm, or prohibited items confiscated, pending further Order of the Court. Any person engaged in activities observed by judges or deputy sheriffs to be a threat to the safety of persons or property in a court facility, or who disrupts official business in the courts or in its ancillary facilities, or who violates state, county or municipal laws, shall be subject to arrest and/or ejection from the facility upon order of a judge or duly authorized law enforcement officer.

DONE AND ORDERED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

CHARLIE CRAWFORD  
CHARLIE CRAWFORD  
CHIEF JUDGE

**DISTRIBUTION:**

All Circuit and County Court Judges (Brevard and Seminole Counties)

Court Administration (Brevard and Seminole Counties) Clerk  
of Court (Brevard and Seminole Counties)

State Attorney (Brevard and Seminole Counties)

Public Defender (Brevard and Seminole Counties)

Sheriff (Brevard and Seminole Counties)

Bar Association (Brevard and Seminole Counties)

Law Library (Brevard and Seminole Counties)

County Attorney (Brevard County)