



**TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE 2021-17
ORDER RE: SECURITY AND CONDUCT IN COURT FACILITIES
(SUPERSEDES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS 08-06 AND 2020-15)**

Pursuant to the authority granted to me in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 (Amended August 2016), as well C.R.S. 13-1-114, as the Chief Judge of the 21st Judicial District, I enter the following orders.

This Order applies to all interior areas of the Mesa County Justice Center and other county facilities in this judicial district in which Colorado state courts and probation departments operate (hereinafter “Court Facility” or “Court Facilities”). This Order does not apply to the area of any building that is occupied and controlled exclusively by the executive branch (e.g., the Offices of the District Attorney).

This Order does not limit the authority of judicial officers to issue orders governing conduct and decorum specific to their courtrooms and matters pending before them. Furthermore, this Order does not supersede any [Chief Justice Directive](#) (i.e., [Chief Justice Directive 08-06, Directive Concerning Colorado Judicial Department Policies for Independent Contractors, Other Persons Conducting Business with the Judicial Department and Judicial Officers](#)).

DISRUPTIVE, THREATENING, OR ABUSIVE CONDUCT PROHIBITED

All conduct in a Court Facility must be consistent with the purpose and use of the facility, which is to house and support Colorado state courts and the probation department. The following conduct is specifically prohibited in Court Facilities as inconsistent with the purpose and use of the facilities:

Displaying or posting signs or other materials that have not been approved by the court executive; distributing literature or other materials; obstructing the passage of any other person; interrupting judicial proceedings; yelling or making other audible outbursts; using sound amplification; harassing, intimidating, or threatening Court personnel or others; or engaging in similar conduct that interferes with the ability of employees to carry out the business of the Courts or the ability of other persons to effectively access the Courts.

ENTERING AND LEAVING COURT FACILITIES

Entry into and exit from Court Facilities (except in an emergency) is restricted to designated doors only.

No person who is authorized to access Court Facilities via key, key card, or other device used to open doors or to call elevators, shall permit unauthorized persons access to Court Facilities or any elevator, locked stairwell door, or other locked door in a Court Facility.

This order does not prohibit authorized employees of the District Attorney's Office or Probation Department from allowing persons access to a Court Facility outside of normal working hours for work-related purposes (e.g., witnesses and probation clients). Members of those offices shall however escort said individuals directly to and from their respective offices.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Firearms, explosive devices, weapons, and any other items deemed as dangerous or a threat to safety and security by court security officers are prohibited and may not be possessed in Court Facilities.

Authorization is provided to peace officers to possess prohibited items in Court Facilities for the purpose of providing court security. Furthermore, the Mesa County Sheriff may promulgate reasonable and appropriate policies to permit peace officers to bring prohibited items into a Court Facility. Any policy, however, must prohibit those peace officers from possessing prohibited items if they are entering a Court Facility for a personal matter. Personal matters include hearings where the peace officer or an immediate family member has an interest in the matter. The Mesa County Sheriff is responsible for making this determination and enforcement of this prohibition.

SCREENING AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS

All persons entering a Court Facility are subject to reasonable inspection for weapons and prohibited items.

The Mesa County Sheriff shall provide security for the Mesa County Justice Center, including routine inspection for weapons and prohibited items.

State and County employees who work in a Court Facility shall be issued an identification card that identifies them as someone who works in a Court Facility. During normal working hours, those who possess a valid Court Facility identification card shall conspicuously display the card while they are in an area of the Court Facility that is restricted via key card or otherwise to employees only. Outside of normal working hours, State and

County employees who possess a valid Court Facility identification card shall conspicuously display the card while they are in any part of a Court Facility.

State and County employees conspicuously displaying a valid Court Facility identification card, as well as other individuals who enter a Court Facility in the course of their official duties, are subject to random security screening and inspection. The final determination of a security check of anyone entering a Court Facility, including individuals who work in a Court Facility, will be at the security officer's discretion.

This Order shall not preclude law enforcement officers or security staff from taking additional appropriate steps to ensure safety as well as the orderly and peaceful conduct of court business at Court Facilities.

MODIFICATION BY JUDICIAL ORDER

The rules and procedures outlined above are subject to exceptions or modification by the Chief Judge in specific circumstances.

Done this 12th day of November 2021.



BRIAN J. FLYNN
Chief Judge