

CLARK COUNTY COURTS ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE

KATHY A. HARDCASTLE
Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial District Court

Nov 16 5 06 PM '07

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO:
07-8

DOUGLAS E. SMITH
Chief Judge, Las Vegas Justice Court


CLERK OF THE COURT

CHARLES J. SHORT
Court Executive Officer

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/29/07

SUBJECT: WEAPONS SCREENING AND WEAPON CARRYING IN COURTHOUSE FACILITIES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the policy of the Eighth Judicial District Court and the Las Vegas Justice Court concerning weapons screening and weapon carrying in courthouse facilities.

II. AFFECTED PERSONS

This policy applies to all court employees, building tenants, and other individuals entering courthouse facilities of the Eighth Judicial District Court and/or the Las Vegas Justice Court.

As used in this policy, "courthouse facilities" include:

- (1) The Family Court and Services Center, located at 601 N. Pecos Road, Las Vegas, NV 89101.
- (2) The Complex Litigation Center, located at 333 South 6th Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101.
- (3) The Regional Justice Center, located at 200 Lewis Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89155.

As used in this policy, "building tenants" include people who are employed in a building designated as a courthouse facility but who are not employed by the Eighth Judicial District Court or the Las Vegas Justice Court. "Building tenants" include, but are not limited to, employees of the District Attorney's Office, the Las Vegas Municipal Court, the Nevada Supreme Court, Juvenile Justice Services, and the County Clerk's Office.

III. DEFINITIONS

CLARK COUNTY COURTS

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE

As used in this policy:

(a) A “weapon” includes the following:

- (1) Any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded;
- (2) Any dangerous weapon defined or referred to in NRS 202.253, 202.255, 202.262, 202.265, 202.320, and 202.350;
- (3) Any hoax bomb as defined in NRS 202.263;
- (4) Any electronic stun device as defined in NRS 202.357;
- (5) Any fireworks;
- (6) Any “dangerous knife,” defined as a knife having a blade that is 2 inches or more in length when measured from the tip of the knife which is customarily sharpened to the unsharpened extension of the blade which forms the hinge connecting the blade to the handle; and
- (7) Any ammunition that may be used in conjunction with a weapon.

(b) A “prohibited item” is any item which, in the opinion of the screening officer, could be construed as:

- (1) A potential weapon that may present a potential danger to public safety; or
- (2) A suspicious item that may present a potential danger to public safety.

IV. GOVERNING RULES RELATING TO WEAPONS

A. Court employees, City or County employees, private citizens, building tenants, and/or attorneys who possess a valid Nevada concealed weapons permit are **not authorized** to carry weapons into courthouse facilities unless specifically authorized by this policy.

B. A person may not carry a weapon of any type within courthouse facilities of the Eighth Judicial District Court and the Las Vegas Justice Court, unless:

- (1) The person has obtained written permission in advance from the Court Executive Officer or designee for the carrying of the weapon;
- (2) The person is a sworn Nevada peace officer (on official duty only);

CLARK COUNTY COURTS ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE

- (3) The person is a sworn Federal Officer (on official duty only);
- (4) The person is an elected or appointed judge in the State of Nevada; or
- (5) The person is the District Attorney or a prosecuting attorney who is employed by the Clark County District Attorney's Office and who is expressly authorized, in writing, by the District Attorney to carry a concealed weapon. The person who is granted permission to carry a concealed weapon must carry a copy of the written authorization on his person at all times while the weapon is being carried in courthouse facilities.

C. Weapons shall not be brought into a courtroom without the appropriate judge's prior approval, except that a peace officer on official duty may carry a weapon into the courtroom unless explicitly ordered otherwise by the particular judge.

V. GOVERNING RULES RELATING TO PROHIBITED ITEMS

- A. Screening officers have the discretion to restrict a person from bringing a prohibited item into courthouse facilities of the Eighth Judicial District Court and the Las Vegas Justice Court, unless:
 - (1) The person has obtained written permission in advance from the Court Executive Officer or designee for the carrying of the prohibited item;
 - (2) The person is an elected or appointed judge in the State of Nevada;
 - (3) The person is an employee of the Eighth Judicial District Court or Las Vegas Justice Court; or
 - (4) The person is employed by a building tenant, regardless of whether the person actually works in a courthouse facility.
- B. A person authorized by this section to carry a prohibited item may do so for personal security, personal use, or use in conjunction with that person's employment. However, if the person is appearing as a party in a pending court matter, the person may be restricted from carrying the prohibited item during the court appearance.

VI. REGULATION OF COURTHOUSE FACILITIES

- A. All persons entering through the public entrances of courthouse facilities shall be subject to search of their persons and any bags, parcels, briefcases, or other containers which they wish to carry with them. Anyone refusing to submit to such a search by a

CLARK COUNTY COURTS ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE

screening officer shall be refused admission into the building.

B. Anyone who is found to be carrying an unauthorized prohibited item, or anyone with a concealed weapons permit who is found to be carrying a firearm or weapon that is legally possessed, will be given the opportunity to take the prohibited item, firearm, or weapon from the courthouse facility.

C. In lieu of removing the prohibited item, firearm, or weapon from the courthouse facility, the Court may, at the Court's option, allow a person to:

(1) Dispose of the item in a designated trash receptacle, if the item is a prohibited item; or

(2) Store the item temporarily in a secure location at the courthouse facility in exchange for a claim check that can be used to reclaim the item at a later time.

D. Anyone who is found to be carrying a weapon or other item that is illegally possessed may be immediately arrested, and such item may be confiscated.

E. Signage will be prominently displayed at all public entrances to courthouse facilities. This signage will include the following language:

**CLARK COUNTY COURTS
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE**

STOP!

**WEAPONS AND PROHIBITED ITEMS
ARE NOT PERMITTED
IN COURTHOUSE FACILITIES!**

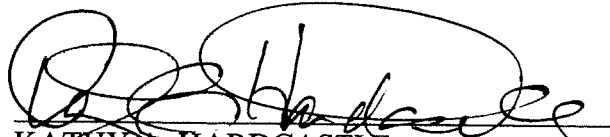
WEAPONS INCLUDE (but are not limited to)

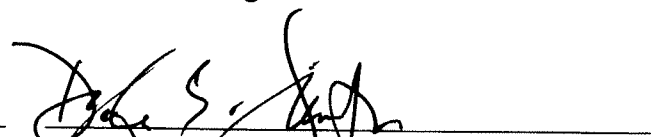
Ammunition
Firearms
Stun Guns
Swords
Throwing Stars

PROHIBITED ITEMS INCLUDE ANY ITEM WHICH,
IN THE OPINION OF THE SCREENING OFFICER,
PRESENTS A POTENTIAL DANGER TO PUBLIC SAFETY

F. Anyone found to be in violation of this Administrative Directive may be held in contempt of court. Any District Attorney employee found in violation of this Directive is also subject to discipline by the District Attorney's Office.

G. This Administrative Directive will remain in effect unless and until otherwise ordered by the Chief Judges of the Eighth Judicial District Court and the Las Vegas Justice Court.


KATHY A. HARDCASTLE,
Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial District Court


DOUGLAS E. SMITH,
Chief Judge, Las Vegas Justice Court


DAVID ROGER
District Attorney, Clark County