

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND
COURTHOUSE POLICY ON WEAPONS, CONTRABAND
AND RELATED MATTERS
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 22-22

WHEREAS, To preserve order, promote the effective administration of justice, and ensure the safety of all persons working in or conducting business in the Calvert County Courthouse, it is necessary to adapt and publish a written policy governing the carrying of firearms, other weapons and contraband into the courthouse; and

WHEREAS, A copy of the policy, as promulgated in this order, shall be filed with the Administrative Office of the Courts.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is this 28th day of November, 2022, by the Circuit Court for Calvert County Maryland, ORDERED:

1. Definitions In this Order, the following words have the meanings stated.

a) "contraband" means any item or substance, the possession of which is illegal, including, but not limited to, controlled dangerous substances and drug paraphernalia.

b) "courthouse" means the Calvert County Courthouse located at 175 Main Street, in Prince Frederick, Maryland.

c) "court security" means the sworn law enforcement officers and civilian personnel assigned by the Sheriff of Calvert County or Calvert County Government to provide courthouse security services.

d) "court staff" means only those persons employed by this court and those persons employed by the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Calvert County.

e) "weapons" include, but are not limited to, firearms, knives, metal knuckles, clubs, nunchakus, razors, chemical mace, pepper spray and any other dangerous item or instrumentality that Court Security considers capable of being used as a weapon.

f) "body armor" means including but not limited to bullet proof vests, tactical vests and any other protective or ballistic gear.

2. Compliance

a) The Sheriff of Calvert County is responsible for courthouse security. Accordingly, all persons must comply with this order, and with the Sheriff's instructions regarding security measures in and around courthouse facilities.

b) Any person who fails to comply with this Order, or the Sheriff's instructions, is subject to referral, by court security, to this court for appropriate sanctions.

c) Furthermore, any person violating city, county, state or federal law may be subject to criminal prosecution.

3. Security Screening

a) All persons entering the courthouse must submit to a security screening for the purpose of detecting weapons and contraband. Such searches may include the use of electronic or other specialized equipment or manual searches, as deemed appropriate by court security. In addition, all briefcases, packages, bags, purses, wallets, cell phones, electronic devices and other personal belongings will be scanned by an x-ray machine and may be manually inspected, except that the person and belongings of the following

individuals are exempt from security screening unless, in the opinion of court security, there is a particularized security concern that warrants screening:

i) active and retired judges with proper identification.

ii) any elected official with proper identification.

iii) Notwithstanding the foregoing exemptions, court security reserves the right to require any person to go through security screening, as a random security check.

4. Firearms and Other Weapons

a) Except as provided below, weapons and body armor are not permitted in the courthouse.

b) Law enforcement officers in official capacity and/or assigned courthouse security duties may possess firearms, and/or other weapons, and body armor in or on courthouse premises, in accordance with Calvert County Sheriff's Office policy.

c) Federal, state, or local law enforcement officers, whether or not in uniform, entering the courthouse not on official business shall surrender their firearms and/or other weapons assigned to them by their employing agencies to court security for safekeeping while in the courthouse.

d) Whether or not in uniform, and whether or not identified by court security, a law enforcement officer may not possess a firearm or other weapon in or on courthouse premises when the officer is:

i) a party to any litigation in a personal or non-official capacity,

ii) a witness in a matter unrelated to law enforcement duties, or

iii) a juror.

5. Waiver The provisions of this order may be waived, on a case-by-case basis, by the county administrative judge, acting in his or her sole discretion, upon a showing of a particularized need, but any such waiver shall not provide a basis or precedent for future waiver requests.

6. Effective Date This order shall take effect November 28, 2022 and shall supersede all prior orders governing any matters which are the subject of this Order. Accordingly, those orders are hereby rescinded.


MARK S. CHANDLEE 782
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
CIRCUIT COURT FOR CALVERT COUNTY