

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN

DISTRICT COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**In re Hennepin County District Court
Security-Weapons Policy**

ORDER

WHEREAS, it is the Court's responsibility to ensure the proper, safe, and orderly administration of justice throughout Hennepin County District Court facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Court has had a weapons policy in place since July 12, 1995, that prohibits any firearm or other weapon from being taken into a courtroom or the environs of any other juvenile justice or other court facility within Hennepin County, except under certain conditions described below;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all persons, except as provided in this Order, are prohibited from having weapons or replica weapons on their person or in their possession in Hennepin County District Court facilities, regardless of whether or not they have a firearms permit.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that persons entering Hennepin County District Court facilities may be subject to screening for weapons upon entry. Anyone refusing to submit to such searches shall be refused admission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all weapons, including but not limited to the following, shall be removed from persons before they are allowed to proceed further into the court facility:

1. Firearms and any ammunition;
2. Stun guns and taser weapons;
3. Replica or toy guns or any device that is designed to appear to be a firearm or a partially concealed firearm;
4. Chemical irritants, such as mace or pepper spray, except that government employees who possess chemical irritants for their personal protection may carry chemical irritants into and out of the Hennepin County District Court facilities; and
5. Knives, box cutters and other bladed objects, except tools used by government employees and contractors as part of their work.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order shall not apply to (i) licensed peace officers; (ii) federally authorized law enforcement agents in the performance of their official duties; or (iii) Hennepin County Sheriff's Office detention deputies. In addition, this Order shall not apply to Hennepin County Sheriff's reserve officers and special deputies in full uniform appearing for training events at Court facilities when Hennepin County Security has been notified in advance and supplied with a list of the names of such reserve officers and/or special deputies. Only law enforcement personnel empowered by law to carry weapons may enter a court facility with a weapon. The peace officer exception to this Order shall not apply to officers present in court as private parties or to provide testimony not related to their job duties. Whether bypassing weapons screening or submitting to weapons screening, peace officers who possess weapons pursuant to this paragraph shall disclose to weapons screening personnel that they are armed and appearing on official business.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that weapons to be used as an exhibit in an official proceeding may be taken into a courtroom or any other court facility only after they have been checked for safety by the Hennepin County Sheriff or Sheriff's designee, be sealed in a transparent vinyl taped envelope or otherwise be secured to ensure security during the proceedings by a peace officer in the performance of official duties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Hennepin County District Court facilities include:

1. Hennepin County Government Center,
300 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis;
2. Hennepin County Conciliation Court,
Third Floor of Minneapolis City Hall, 350 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis;
3. District Court Division II,
6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center;
4. District Court Division III,
12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka;
5. Hennepin County Public Safety Facility,
401 South Fourth Avenue, Minneapolis;
6. Hennepin County Family Justice Center,
110 South Fourth Street, Minneapolis; and
7. Hennepin County Juvenile Justice Center,
590 Park Avenue, Minneapolis.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any person violating this Order shall be subject to being held in contempt of court and may be subject to a jail sentence, fine or other sanction.

This Order is effective immediately.

BY THE COURT:

Dated: November 19, 2019

Ivy S. Bernhardson
Chief Judge of District Court