
In re: Possession of Firearms and other Weapons
in a Courthouse Complex Within the Second
Judicial District

ORDER

The above-entitled matter came before the Honorable John H. Guthmann, Chief Judge, Second Judicial District, on the request of the Second Judicial District Court Administrator to amend a previous Administrative Order regarding possession of firearms on court property in the Second Judicial District.

Pursuant to the administrative authority of the Chief Judge under Minn. Stat. § 484.69, subd. 3; the inherent judicial power of the Court under Article 1, § 8, Article 3, § 1, and Article 6, § 1 of the Minnesota Constitution; Rules 2.01(a), (e) and 2.02(e) of the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts; and, Minn. Stat. §§ 609.66, subds. 1g(a)-(b) and 624.72, subds. 1 & 3, the Court issues the following:

ORDER

- 1) All persons entering a courthouse complex, including those who have a permit under Minn. Stat. § 624.714, are prohibited from having weapons, including but not limited to firearms, on their person or in their possession.
- 2) For purposes of this Order, a “courthouse complex” is defined as any building where court functions are conducted.
- 3) The following exceptions apply to paragraph 1:

- a) Licensed peace officers or military personnel who are performing official duties.
“Official Duties” are defined as peace officers or military personnel appearing in the courthouse complex for purposes of performing job duties consistent with law enforcement or military business within a courthouse complex. “Official Duties” do not include peace officers or military personnel present in court as private parties, support persons, veteran’s court participants or mentors, or to provide testimony not required by their jobs.
- b) Weapons to be used as demonstrative or substantive evidence at a trial or hearing shall be allowed in accordance with the Second Judicial District Policy on Handling of Weapons/Firearms in the Courtroom, as most recently amended.
- c) Individuals with weapons may be allowed to enter a courthouse complex with the express written consent of the Sheriff when, in the sound discretion of the Sheriff, a valid reason exists to allow entry with the weapon, and that the Sheriff assures, through whatever means he/she deems appropriate, that the individual and weapon do not pose a threat to persons conducting lawful business within the building, and further assures that: 1) the weapon will not be used in any manner so as to disrupt the orderly proceedings of the Court or to in any way intimidate, threaten or pose a risk to any individual, and 2) the weapon will not be left within the courthouse complex. If the Sheriff issues a written consent pursuant to this paragraph, a copy shall be provided to the Chief Judge of the Second Judicial District.
- 4) Any person violating this Order shall be subject to being held in contempt of court and may be subject to a jail sentence.

- 5) This Order is effective immediately and supersedes any previous Order issued by a Chief Judge of the Second Judicial District. The Second Judicial District Court Administrator is directed to post a copy of this Order in all Ramsey County court complexes and on the Second Judicial District website.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 21, 2016

BY THE COURT:



John H. Guthmann
Chief Judge, Second Judicial District

FILED
Court Administrator

JUL 21 2016

By Hmk Deputy