

STATE OF MICHIGAN GENESEE COUNTY 7 th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PROBATE COURT 67 th DISTRICT COURT 68 th DISTRICT COURT	In Re: Security Policies and Courtroom Decorum	LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER C25 2010-02J P25 2010-01J D67 2010-01J D68 2010-02J
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7th Judicial Circuit Court 900 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502 (810) 424-4355
Genesee County Probate Court, 900 S. Saginaw Street, Flint MI 48502 (810) 257-3528
67th District Court, 630 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502 (810) 257-3170
68th District Court, 630 S. Saginaw Street, Flint MI 48502 (810) 766-8968

This local administrative order is issued in accordance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2001-1. Joint local administrative order, Circuit Court 2009-6J, Probate Court 2009-5J and District Court 2009-03J are hereby rescinded. The purpose of this order is to address the issues of court security and courtroom decorum.

IT IS ORDERED:

Courthouse Security

1. No weapons or other **impermissible items** are allowed in the Genesee County Courthouse, 67th District Court, 68th District Court [hereinafter collectively referred to as Courthouse], or any satellite District Court or satellite court offices, including the Office of the Friend of the Court and the Galliver Building, where juvenile probation, court services & drug court staff are located.

Impermissible items include firearms and explosives of any kind (including fireworks)

Knives, box cutters, razor blades, fingernail files, scissors, knitting needles and similar items

Tools, such as hammers, screwdrivers, pliers, wrenches, nails, chains or any tool that may be used as a weapon

Chemical sprays, such as mace, pepper sprays or any spray that could be considered harmful.

Cell phones, camera phones, electronic recording devices and cameras except for attorneys with a bar card, individuals in possession of a summons for jury duty or otherwise identified as a seated juror, court employees, county, city, state or federal employees on official business or law enforcement officers on official business.

Prohibited items will not be held for safekeeping by security personnel.

This prohibition specifically does not apply to security personnel of the Court, personnel of the Office of the Genesee County Sheriff or local law enforcement officers appearing in the performance of their official duties, if the officer is in uniform (or otherwise properly identified) and is not a party to a matter then before the court.

The Chief Judge may authorize additional exceptions under appropriate circumstances. To be permitted to carry a weapon on court premises, judges or court staff must receive written permission in advance from the Chief Judge. The Sheriff will be made aware of any authorization granted by the Chief Judge, including the scope and duration. The authority of the Office of the Genesee County Sheriff is not abrogated by this provision.

2. Except for service animals, no animals are allowed in the courthouse or any satellite District Court or satellite court offices, including the Office of the Friend of the Court or Galliver Building.
3. If a service animal enters the Courthouse with a person, the security officers shall only inquire if the animal is a service animal and what tasks the animal has been trained to perform. The person shall not be required to produce any identification or explain any disability. The person with the service animal is to be treated as any other person while in the courthouse.

If a service animal is out of control, the person using the animal shall immediately take effective action to control the animal. If the owner does not immediately take effective control and the animal poses a threat to the health or safety of any person or another service animal, the security officer may ask that the animal be removed from the courthouse. If the person using the out of control service animal still has business in the courthouse, the security officers will offer assistance in completing the business without the aid of the service animal.

4. All persons, their belongings and parcels are subject to screening by the Office of the Genesee County Sheriff or other security or law enforcement personnel for purposes of keeping weapons or other impermissible items from entering court facilities.

If at any time there is an articulable and reasonable suspicion that a weapon or other impermissible item, may be found, a person or object is subject to search. The search shall be no more intrusive than necessary to protect against the dangers presented.

5. Notice shall be posted at the entrances to the Courthouse and all satellite District Court or satellite court offices, that weapons or other impermissible items are not

permitted and that all persons, belongings and parcels are subject to a search for weapons and impermissible items, as a condition of entry. Persons in violation of this order may be held in contempt of court.

6. Notice of no admittance with cell phones, camera phones, electronic recording devices or cameras will be conspicuously posted on the exterior of court facilities.
7. Because of the potential for unauthorized recording of court proceedings, all film or electronic recording devices are prohibited from the Courthouse and any satellite District Court or satellite court offices, except for recognized media outlets. In accordance with this policy, all other persons shall be prohibited from entering the Courthouse, any satellite District Court or satellite court offices, while in possession of a camera, video camera, video recorder, tape recorder or any other device equipped with recording features.
8. An individual who seeks to enter the Courthouse, any satellite District Court or any satellite court offices, with a film or electronic recording device may request an exception to this policy from the judge presiding over the applicable court proceeding. All other exceptions shall be presented to the Chief Judge for approval. Requests for film or electronic media coverage of a court proceeding shall be governed by Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 1989-1.
9. After hours courtroom usage must be requested in advance and approved by the appropriate court administrator. Individuals permitted to use courtrooms may be required to be financially responsible for security costs as determined by the Office of the Genesee County Sheriff.

Courtroom Security

1. The level of courtroom security will be determined by the chief judge, assigned judge or their designee, and the Office of the Genesee County Sheriff, and will be commensurate with the nature of the proceedings, including any increased risk factor that maybe associated with a particular case.
2. When the Chief Judge, assigned judge or their designee believes increased courtroom security is necessary for a specific case, they shall use their best efforts to contact the Office of the Genesee County Sheriff 48 hours in advance of the proceeding to discuss and determine the appropriate level of security.
3. Multiple defendant criminal cases will require a greater security presence to ensure public safety and promote courtroom decorum.
4. Judges recognize the right of access by the public to a court proceeding. This right may be limited as circumstances require pursuant to MCR 8.116(D)(1).

Gallery Seating Protocol

1. The chief judge, assigned judge or their designee may limit public seating to promote courtroom safety and decorum.
2. Seating may be reserved for victim or defendant family.
3. The judge may limit the opportunities for courtroom entrance and exit, while the court is in session.
4. No standing will be allowed when court is in session.

Courtroom Decorum

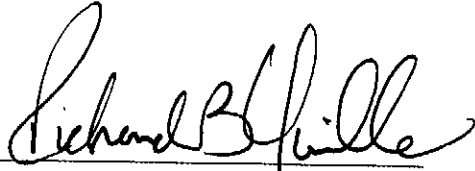
Important legal proceedings take place within a courthouse. Appropriate attire is encouraged.

A judge may require a litigant, witness, attorney or observer to leave the courtroom or adjourn a proceeding to comply with standards of courtroom decorum.

Courtroom Restrictions

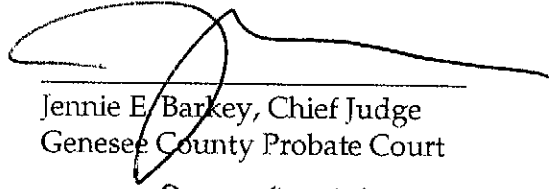
- No food or drink shall be brought into a courtroom.

Effective Date: May 17, 2010



Richard B. Yuille, Chief Judge
7th Judicial Circuit Court

Date: March 17, 2010



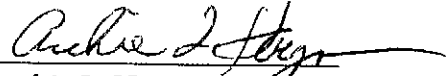
Jennie E. Barkey, Chief Judge
Genesee County Probate Court

Date: 3-19-10



Mark G. McCabe, Chief Judge
67th District Court

Date: 3-17-10



Archie L. Hayman, Chief Judge
68th District Court

Date: 3/18/10

8-37576