

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF
THE STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.: 99-11

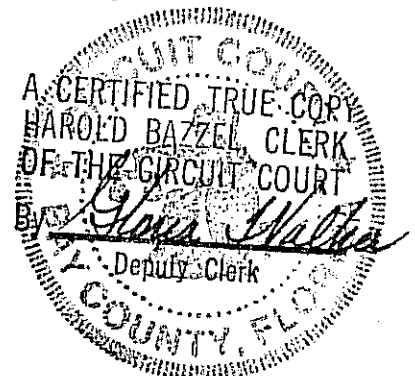
I. General Provisions

WHEREAS, the increased threats and acts of violence directed at witnesses, jurors, litigants, lawyers, court personnel and judges demonstrate the need for additional security at the County courthouses, courthouse annexes and any "off-site" courtrooms in the fourteenth judicial circuit; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 43.19, Florida Statutes, and Rules 2.050(b), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, the Chief Judge and/or each presiding judge of each judicial circuit and each county has the power and responsibility to promote the prompt and efficient administration of justice in the courts over which he/she presides; and

WHEREAS, the protection of the public and courthouse personnel safety is an integral component of promoting prompt and efficient administration of justice in the courts.

ACCORDINGLY, the undersigned as Chief Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, hereby prohibits all persons, with the exception of those specifically enumerated in Section II below, from carrying or possessing firearms, weapons, or destructive devices, as defined in Section 790.001, Florida Statutes, in the County courthouses, or any courthouse annexes or "off-site" courtrooms (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "courthouse") in the six counties of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. Further, this Court prohibits all persons from carrying or being in possession of any other device(s) or instrument(s) that could be used or perceived to be used as a physical threat to persons or property in the courthouses of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. Prohibitions may include, but are not limited to pocket knives, ammunition, fireworks, or flammable liquids. To enforce this prohibition, each Sheriff and his/her duly appointed deputies are empowered to stop all persons entering the



courthouses, and condition the right of entry upon the entrant's willingness to submit to a search of their person and effects. All persons refusing to submit to a search shall be denied access to the courthouse. Searches shall be conducted through the least intrusive means practicable. The purpose of the search is to ensure the safety of the occupants of the courthouse. The discovery of illegal weapons, contraband as defined in Section 932.701, Florida Statutes, or other violations of criminal statutes will result in the immediate notification of law enforcement so that an arrest and seizure may be effectuated.

II Exempt Persons

The following shall be exempt from the prohibition against carrying firearms into the courthouse:

- A. All Law Enforcement Officers, including Federal, State, County and City while on official law enforcement business.
- B. Judges, both active and retired.
- C. Traffic and Child Support Hearing Officers.

III Admission Searches

A. Any person (excluding courthouse personnel in courthouses with separate secured personnel entrance) desiring to enter the courthouse shall enter through authorized entrances and shall pass through a magnetometer (metal detector), where available and/or a hand held metal detector device, where available.

B. Any person who activates the metal detector must empty his or her pockets and pass through the device a second time. If, after the second pass through, the metal detector is again activated, the person shall be subject to a search of his or her person to identify all objects which activated the metal detector.

C. Prior to passing through the metal detector, any person carrying a package, briefcase, pocketbook or any other item shall place such package, briefcase, pocketbook or any other item on the x-ray conveyor belt or shall submit it to the bailiff/deputy sheriff for visual inspection. In cases where no x-ray machine is available, all packages, briefcase, pocketbook or any other item will be physically/visually inspected.

D. If illegal firearms, weapons, destructive devices or contraband, as defined above, are discovered during a search, an arrest and seizure can occur.

IV Notice

The following notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place at all courthouse entrances where applicable:

“FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC, ALL PERSONS ENTERING THESE PREMISES MUST PASS THROUGH THE MAGNETOMETER AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO A LIMITED SEARCH. ALL PACKAGES, BRIEFCASES, POCKETBOOKS OR OTHER ITEMS CARRIED BY A PERSON MUST BE OFFERED FOR INSPECTION IF SUCH PERSON WISHES TO ENTER THE BUILDING. ILLEGAL WEAPONS OR OTHER CONTRABAND DISCOVERED IN THE COURSE OF THESE SEARCH PROCEDURES WILL BE SEIZED AND THE PERSON FOUND IN POSSESSION OF SUCH ITEMS MAY BE ARRESTED AND APPREHENDED ON SITE.”

V. Effective date

This order shall become effective November 1, 1999. It shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified by an Administrative Order from the Office of the Chief Judge.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Panama City, Bay County, Florida, this 8 day of October, 1999.



JUDY M. PITTMAN, CHIEF JUDGE

ADDENDUM TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

NO. 99-11

I. All persons desiring to enter the Courthouse in Bay County who are courthouse personnel shall enter either through the separate secured personnel entrances or must show picture I.D. as courthouse employee at the main entrance to avoid passage through the magnetometer.

II. All Attorneys, who are members of the Florida Bar, desiring to enter the Courthouse in Bay County, may show picture I.D. with Bar Number at the main entrance to avoid passage through the magnetometer.