

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER GOVERNING POSSESSION OR DISPLAY  
OF WEAPONS, FIREARMS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN COURTHOUSES  
WITHIN ORANGE COUNTY**

The health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Orange County are of primary concern to the Board of County Commissioners and this Court. The tragic incident which occurred on January 10, 1984, in the Orange County Courthouse, resulting in serious injury and loss of life, illustrates that court proceedings may be fraught with extreme emotionalism and danger. The Board of County Commissioners has appropriated funding for the purpose of improving the safety and security of those who conduct business within the Courthouse, including employees and citizens. In an effort to ensure the safety and security of all persons conducting business within the Orange County Courthouses, as well as those persons employed within the Courthouses, it is necessary to restrict the possession of weapons, firearms and hazardous materials permitted in the courthouses within Orange County.

By the power vested in the chief judge under Article V, section 2(d) of the Florida Constitution, section 43.26, Florida Statutes, and rule 2.215 of the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, **effective immediately**, unless otherwise provided herein, to continue until further order and superseding any provisions in prior Administrative Orders which may be inconsistent, it is **ORDERED**:

1. The Orange County Courthouses<sup>1</sup> are designated as Secure Facilities.
2. Any civilian entering the Orange County Courthouses shall be subject to search of his or her person, pockets, bags, briefcases, pocketbooks, purses, or other baggage-type items with the use of electronic or other specialized equipment. Any civilian who refuses to submit to such search shall be denied access to the Orange County Courthouses.
3. Any civilian possessing a weapon, firearm, or explosive or hazardous material of any kind shall be denied access to the courthouses unless said weapon, firearm, explosive or

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this Administrative Order, the term "courthouse" means any building or structure in which judicial proceedings may be conducted, including, but not limited to: (1) Orange County Courthouse, located at 425 North Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801 (including the 23-level courthouse tower commonly referred to as Building C; and the two flanking buildings, Building A occupied by the Public Defender, located at 435 North Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801, and Building B occupied by the State Attorney, located at 415 North Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801); (2) Thomas S. Kirk Justice Center, located at 2000 East Michigan Street, Orlando, Florida 32806; (3) Orange County Booking and Release Center, located at 3855 South John Young Parkway, Orlando, Florida 32839; (4) Orange County Branch Courthouse – Apopka, located at 1111 North Rock Springs Road, Apopka, Florida 32712 (limited to those spaces specifically used for court functions); (5) Orange County Branch Courthouse – Ocoee, located at 475 Story Road, Ocoee, Florida 34761 (limited to those spaces specifically used for court functions); and (6) Orange County Branch Courthouse – Winter Park, located at 4037 Metric Drive, Winter Park, Florida 32792.

hazardous material is surrendered to the proper authorities. If any illegal weapon, firearm, or explosive or hazardous material is discovered, the proper law enforcement officials or officers shall be immediately notified for appropriate action.

4. Possession or display of weapons or firearms shall be restricted to certified State law enforcement officers and correctional officers who produce identifying credentials, including the State Attorney and investigators employed by the State Attorney's Office, and all county and circuit judges, except as provided in paragraph five, below.

5. Any law enforcement/correctional officer who is not in uniform and on-duty and in possession of a firearm must keep the firearm concealed and secured at all times so that the firearm is not visible while in the courthouses. Any law enforcement/correctional officer who is in uniform and/or in possession of a weapon or firearm shall not be permitted to attend or participate in any court proceeding in which he or she is personally involved. Any law enforcement/correctional officer conducting personal, off-duty business within the courthouses shall not be permitted to be in possession of any weapon or firearm.

6. Exceptions to paragraphs 4 and 5 above shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis pursuant to a written request by an agency head or designee. Granting of an exception shall be provided in writing by the Chief Judge or designee.

7. Administrative Order 07-95-51-06 is vacated and set aside except to the extent that it has been incorporated and/or amended herein. Vacating an Administrative Order that vacates a prior Order does not revive the prior Order.

**DONE AND ORDERED** at Orlando, Florida, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2025.



Reginald K. Whitehead  
Acting Chief Judge

Copies provided to:

Clerk of Court, Orange County  
Clerk of Court, Osceola County  
General E-Mail Distribution List  
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