

Supreme Court of Colorado

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NATHAN B. COATS
CHIEF JUSTICE

SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

ORDER

DECORUM AND CONDUCT IN THE COURTHOUSE AT THE RALPH L. CARR JUDICIAL CENTER

As the Chief Executive head of the judicial system pursuant to the Colorado Constitution, Article VI, Section 5(2), I hereby issue the following Chief Justice Order governing decorum and conduct in Courthouse of the Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center (“Carr Center”).

The Colorado Supreme Court has the responsibility and authority to ensure the efficient performance of judicial functions, to protect the dignity, independence, and integrity of the courts, and to make the lawful actions of the courts effective. Specifically, the Court must ensure the safe and orderly use of the facilities of the Carr Center. Those having business at the Carr Center must be able to enter and exit and use the facilities and grounds freely, in a safe and orderly fashion, and unhindered by threats, intimidation, interference, or harassment. The Court also must provide a secure environment for all who enter the Carr Center, and the Court further must minimize activities that unreasonably disrupt or interfere with the orderly and peaceful conduct of court-related business. It is imperative that the Court provide for the fair and orderly conduct

of proceedings and maintain proper judicial decorum by ensuring a neutral forum free of actual or perceived partiality, bias, prejudice, or favoritism. Accordingly, I find that it is reasonable, necessary, and appropriate to impose certain restrictions on conduct in the Carr Center without regard to the content or viewpoint of any particular message, idea, or form of speech.

This Order applies to the Courthouse of the Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center, which is defined as: the area of the Carr Center south of the exterior doors of the building entrance on 14th Avenue and north of the interior sign near the Carr Center courtyard marked “Courthouse”, including the courtrooms of the Colorado Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, the rotunda, the Supreme Court Library, the Colorado Judicial Learning Center, and the Clerks’ Office of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. This Order does not limit the authority of judicial officers to issue necessary and reasonable orders governing conduct and decorum in their courtrooms or in matters pending before them.

All conduct in the Carr Center must be consistent with the purpose and use of the Carr Center, which is to house and support various governmental agencies and offices. The following conduct is specifically prohibited in the Carr Center as inconsistent with the purpose and use of the facilities:

Displaying signs or other materials; distributing literature or other materials; obstructing the passage of any other person; interrupting judicial proceedings; yelling or other audible outbursts; using sound amplification; harassing, intimidating, or threatening Court personnel or others; engaging in similar conduct that interferes with the ability of employees to carry out the business of the Carr Center or the ability of other persons to use the Carr Center. Those entering the Carr Center are required to be fully clothed.

Any expressive activities on the exterior grounds of the Carr Center must comply with The Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center Grounds Permit Policies and Procedures.

Users of the Carr Center should refer to the Supreme Court Rules, Chapter 38, Rule 3, which provides guidance for photography and other recordings of court proceedings. The use of electronic devices to record, photograph, or broadcast judicial proceedings in the Carr Center is prohibited except under the limited circumstances defined in Rule 3.

This Order shall not apply to events held in the Carr Center that have obtained express prior authorization.

This Order shall not preclude law enforcement or security staff from taking additional appropriate steps to ensure the orderly and peaceful conduct of court business at the Carr Center. This specifically includes enforcement of § 18-9-111 and § 18-9-117, C.R.S. All persons at the Carr Center shall comply with the lawful requests, directions, and orders of law enforcement officers and security staff in the performance of their official duties. Failure to do so will constitute a violation of this Order.

Done at Denver, Colorado this 21st day of June, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan B. Coats", written over a horizontal line.

Nathan B. Coats
Chief Justice, Colorado Supreme Court