



**TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DOUGLAS, ELBERT, and LINCOLN COUNTIES
STATE OF COLORADO**

**CHIEF JUDGE ORDER 2025-12
REGARDING CERTAIN PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES AT THE ELBERT COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 14, 2025**

Pursuant to the authority granted to chief judges of the judicial districts of the State of Colorado by Chief Justice Directive 95-01, “Authority and Responsibility of Chief Judges,” this Order applies to the Elbert County Courthouse.

The 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 Elbert County Courthouse, including the free flow of pedestrian traffic. Those having business at the Elbert County Courthouse must be able to enter and exit Courthouse 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 Courthouse grounds, and the Court further must minimize activities that unreasonably disrupt or interfere with the orderly and peaceful conduct of court business. It is imperative that the Court provide for the fair and orderly conduct of court proceedings and maintain proper judicial decorum by ensuring a neutral forum free of actual or perceived partiality, bias, prejudice, or favoritism. Accordingly, the Court finds that it is reasonable, necessary, and appropriate to impose certain restrictions on expressive activity at the Courthouse without regard to the content or viewpoint of any particular message, idea, or form of speech.

Prohibited Activities: The Court hereby prohibits the following activities from taking place in the interior areas of the Elbert County Courthouse other than courtrooms. The Court also prohibits the following activities from taking place within the lined area on the attached map of the Courthouse grounds. 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. The prohibition on the following activities shall be enforced inside the building at all times. The prohibition on the following activities shall be enforced on Courthouse grounds Monday-Friday from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm.

- **Picketing; displaying signs or banners; protesting; parading; writing or drawing with chalk; holding vigils or religious services; proselytizing; preaching; distributing literature or other materials; gathering signatures; petitioning; or engaging in similar conduct that interferes with the ability of any person to move about the Courthouse grounds or freely enter and exit the Courthouse.**
- **Soliciting; selling goods or services, requesting donations, or engaging in any commercial activity except to the extent that solicitation or commercial activity is directed to the Judicial Branch or Elbert County. Encumbering any location with personal property (tents, chairs, tables, podiums, etc.).**
- **Obstructing the clear passage of law enforcement, emergency vehicles and personnel, courthouse personnel, or other persons.**
- **Using sound amplification equipment in a manner that is audible inside courtrooms or offices or that otherwise violates county ordinances.**

This Order shall not operate to preclude law enforcement or security staff from taking additional appropriate steps to ensure the orderly and peaceful conduct of court business at the Elbert County Courthouse. This Order shall be enforced by the Elbert County Sheriff's Department and courthouse security staff as necessary. Further, all persons on the Courthouse grounds shall comply with the lawful requests, directions, and orders of any law enforcement officers and security staff in the performance of their official duties at all times.

This Order shall be posted at each public entrance at the Elbert County Courthouse. It shall also be posted at such other places as will reasonably assist in providing notice of this Order.

Dated this 14th day of January 2025.

BY THE COURT:



Ryan J. Stuart
Chief Judge, 23rd Judicial District

