



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

**CHIEF JUDGE ORDER 2025-31
RESTRICTING FIREARMS AND WEAPONS IN COURT AND PROBATION
FACILITIES
EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 14, 2025**

Pursuant to the authority provided to Chief Judges under Chief Justice Directive (“CJD”) 95-01, this Chief Judge Order (“CJO”) 25-31 is hereby entered restricting firearms and weapons in court and probation facilities.

Court cases by their very nature cause some participants to have strong feelings which can, unfortunately, be conducive to violence or the threat of violence. Those members of the public attending court or entering public facilities to conduct court, probation, or other government related business along with the judges and employees of the court and probation department, have a right to expect the general environment within the public facilities to be safe and secure from threat and bodily harm. The Sheriffs of each county are responsible for the security in their respective courts. Further, it is prudent to not impede the Sheriffs and to allow them to utilize their extensive expertise, experience, and discretion to properly ensure the safety of all who enter the court and probation facilities.

State courts, in accordance with Article III of the Colorado Constitution, have the independence and the inherent power to regulate the environment of court and probation operational areas and facilities. Pursuant to CJD 95-01, the chief judge is responsible for the assignment and management of all district facilities, including courtrooms, public spaces of courthouses, and probation offices. It is therefore ordered that the following actions restricting the introduction of firearms and/or deadly weapons into those facilities of the 23rd Judicial District of the State of Colorado in which state courts and state probation departments are located are enacted:

1. The public is specifically prohibited from bringing firearms and other deadly weapons into any building facility in which courts and probation departments operate.
2. No firearms or deadly weapons shall be transported into a court or probation facility unless in the possession of court authorized law enforcement or security officers as licensed by the State of Colorado.

3. No permit authorizing the carrying of a concealed weapon shall be construed as sufficient authority to abrogate this CJO.
4. Authorization is provided to law enforcement officers of the respective sheriff departments of the 23rd Judicial District to carry firearms within the court and probation facilities of the 23rd Judicial District for the specific purpose of providing court security and the transportation of those who are in the custody of the sheriff.
5. Authorization is provided to correction officers of the Colorado Department of Corrections (“DOC”) to carry firearms within the court and probation facilities of the 23rd Judicial District for the specific purpose of transporting those who are in the custody of DOC.
6. The Sheriff’s Departments in Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln counties may promulgate reasonable and appropriate policies to permit certified law enforcement officers currently employed with other law enforcement agencies to bring appropriate weapons into their respective court facilities so long as those law enforcement officers have no personal cases pending in court. Personal cases are defined as cases where they or their immediate family members are a named party in any criminal, civil, domestic relations, juvenile, probate, or mental health proceeding. The respective Sheriff’s Departments are responsible for making that determination and enforcement of this prohibition.
7. The sheriffs of the counties within the 23rd Judicial District are authorized and empowered to enforce this order and are asked to consult with the chief judge should there be any concerns about this CJO. The judicial officers of the 23rd Judicial District may invoke the contempt process as authorized by law to assist with the enforcement of this CJO.

This CJO 25-31 shall remain in effect until such time as it is amended or rescinded by further order of the chief judge.

Dated this 14th day of January 2025.

BY THE COURT:



Ryan J. Stuart
Chief Judge, 23rd Judicial District