

DISTRICT COURT, FREMONT COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

CHIEF JUDGE ORDER RE: SECURITY AT THE FREMONT COUNTY JUDICIAL BUILDING

This Chief Judge Order is issued pursuant to the inherent powers of this Court, and under the authority of the undersigned as Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial District.

The Court finds that acts or threats of violence involving the use of firearms, knives, and other instruments or agents of potential harm have occurred with increasing frequency in or near courthouses throughout Colorado, and that this is a matter of both local and statewide concern.

With this in mind, the new Fremont County Justice Center has been designed and constructed to eliminate, to the extent possible, and greatly reduce at any rate, the introduction of firearms, knives and other instruments and agents of potential harm.

The Court further finds that the Orders set forth herein are necessary to implement security measures at the Fremont County Justice Center, so that safety is provided to litigants, witnesses, attorneys, jurors, friends, family members and spectators in attendance at court, probationers, and employees and all others who may be within or near the building.

It is therefore Ordered as follows:

Order - Except as expressly permitted and provided herein, no person shall enter or be allowed to enter or remain in any portion of the Fremont County Justice Center with any firearm, knife or any other instrument or agent of potential harm;

Order - All persons entering through the main south-facing entrance to the Fremont County Justice Center, including judges *and all other employees who work* within the building, and any and all others, regardless of official position or status, shall be subject to screening of their person and possessions by metal detector and/or other screening device, and shall also be subject to search of their -person and possessions, for any firearms, knives, or other instruments or agents of potential harm.

Order - Any and all law enforcement officers engaged in the actual performance of their duties, security staff provided for the -building by the Sheriff of Fremont County, investigators of the office of the District Attorney and armed officers escorting and guarding prisoners, are excepted from these Orders. Nonetheless, whether such persons are permitted into any courtroom in possession of any firearm or other weapon shall be in the sole discretion of the judge then presiding in that courtroom. Persons in attendance at the building for any trial, hearing, settlement conference, mediation, deposition or any other proceeding in which they, or members of their family, are litigants are not deemed to be in actual performance of law enforcement duties.

Order - Weapons of any law enforcement officer may be kept in a locked container maintained by security staff and the same returned to the officer upon departure.

Order - When production of a firearm or knife or other instrument or agent of potential harm is considered necessary at court for presentation as evidence, permission of the judge assigned to the case shall be requested in writing sufficiently in advance of the hearing or trial to permit appropriate arrangements to be made.

Order - Copies of this Order shall always be available at the screening station at the main entrance to the building, at the Probation Department, Office of the District Attorney, each division of the court, and at the Clerk of the Combined Courts, and be freely and politely distributed, without necessity of a request therefore, to any person who may have questions or concerns regarding the subject matter of this Order. Thereafter, any person may express any continuing concern to the undersigned by letter, which letter will promptly be answered.

Order - Signs with the following content shall be posted conspicuously at the main entrance to the building and in the parking lot adjacent thereto:

NOTICE

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, AND IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL PERSONS USING THIS BUILDING, THOSE SEEKING TO ENTER THE FREMONT COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER SHALL BE SUBJECT TO SCREENING AND SEARCH OF THEIR PERSON AND POSSESSIONS FOR FIREARMS, KNIVES AND ANY OTHER INSTRUMENTS OR AGENTS OF POTENTIAL HARM. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUCH ITEMS WITH YOU, PLEASE LEAVE THEM IN OR RETURN THEM TO YOUR MOTOR VEHICLE OR OTHERWISE SECURE THEM BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THIS BUILDING.

Done and Signed this 14th day of December, 1999.

/s/ John Anderson, Chief Judge
Eleventh Judicial District