

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

SECURITY PROCEDURES

**GENERAL ORDER**

**Birch Bayh Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse  
46 East Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

**United States Courthouse  
921 Ohio Street  
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807**

**Winfield K. Denton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse  
101 Northwest MLK Boulevard  
Evansville, Indiana 47708**

**Lee H. Hamilton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse  
121 West Spring Street  
New Albany, Indiana 47150**

This order supersedes and replaces all prior orders of this Court on these subjects and establishes the security procedures applicable to all persons entering federal court facilities in the Southern District of Indiana, including the Birch Bayh Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Indianapolis; the United States Courthouse in Terre Haute; the Winfield K. Denton Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Evansville; and the Lee H. Hamilton Federal Building and United States Courthouse in New Albany (collectively referred to as "U.S. Courthouses in the Southern District" or "Courthouse Facilities").

## SECURITY PROCEDURES

### **A. Screening of Persons Entering the Building**

1. The United States Marshals Service Court Security Officers shall operate X-ray machines and walk-through magnetometers at all public entrances to U.S. Courthouses in the Southern District for the purpose of screening persons entering the buildings. All persons and their belongings are subject to search by the United States Marshals Service while in Courthouse Facilities.
  
2. All persons having business with the Courts or any other offices in a U.S. Courthouse in the Southern District shall pass through the walk-through magnetometers for the purpose of detection of firearms, explosives, pepper spray, incendiary devices, knives, or any other items prohibited by law, regulation or court order from introduction into these facilities. These persons shall submit to further screening by a United States Marshals Service Court Security Officer if the readings of the magnetometer indicate the presence of metallic substances. This further screening may encompass the removal of all metallic objects on their person and screening by a portable hand held metal detector or other screening procedures as necessary. Any person refusing to submit to this screening process shall be denied access to any of the Courthouses Facilities.
  
3. All persons having business with the Courts or any other offices in a U.S. Courthouse in the Southern District who are carrying, delivering or otherwise transporting any briefcase, suitcase, package, electronic device (including cell phones, pagers, electronic organizers or portable computers), or any other container (herein referred to as "carried item") shall surrender such carried item for screening through an X-ray device and/or personal inspection by a Court Security Officer. Any person refusing to submit his or her carried item(s) for screening through an X-ray device and/or personal inspection by a Court Security Officer shall be denied access to any Courthouse Facility. If a Court Security Officer concludes, after X-ray and/or personal inspection, that any item which the person seeks to bring into a Courthouse Facility may contain firearms, explosives, pepper spray, incendiary devices, knives, or any other dangerous item prohibited by law, regulation or court order, the individual is subject to arrest.

EXCEPTIONS. The following persons, upon presentation of a United States Courthouse-issued photo identification card, shall be

exempt from the screening procedures set forth above (with appropriate official identification, and subject to exceptions related to changes in building security status or random checks):

- a. District Judges of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana;
- b. Magistrate Judges of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana;
- c. Judges of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana;
- d. Employees of the United States Marshals Service and contractors of the United States Marshals Service who serve as Court Security Officers who are authorized by law and agency regulations to carry firearms;
- e. Employees of the United States Federal Protective Service of the Department of Homeland Security who are authorized by law and agency regulations to carry firearms;
- f. Employees of the federal government (excluding contractors), including employees of the United States District Court, Bankruptcy Court, and Probation Office, who are assigned to a permanent duty station within one of the U.S. Courthouses within the Southern District;
- g. Attorneys and their staff directly employed by the Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, the Indiana Federal Community Defender for the Southern District of Indiana, the Office of the United States Trustee for the Southern District of Indiana, and the Internal Revenue Service for the Southern District of Indiana; and
- h. Standing Chapter 13 Trustees.

NOTE - Although exempt from security screening the persons listed above are not permitted to bring firearms, pepper spray, or any other restricted items into a Courthouse Facility within the Southern District (see Section D). Violators will have restricted items confiscated, may have future access privileges revoked, and may be subject to further action by the Court or federal law enforcement agency.

4. No person having authorized access to any Courthouse Facility, or a secured location therein, shall permit any unauthorized person access to any Courthouse Facility or to any elevator, locked stairwell door, or any other locked area in a Courthouse Facility without proper authorization.

5. Only government employees authorized by their appropriate agency manager and possessing an official identification card may enter Courthouse Facilities through a secured entrance.

## **B. Cameras and Recording Devices**

Except as specifically provided herein, no camera or recording device shall be permitted in any of the U.S. Courthouses in the Southern District.

EXCEPTIONS: Cameras and / or recording devices may be permitted in U. S. Courthouses in the Southern District under the following circumstances:

1. Cameras and recording devices are permitted if authorized for a specific occurrence by a Judge of the United States District Court, a Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court, or the Clerk of the United States District or Bankruptcy Courts for the Southern District of Indiana or their authorized representatives (also known as "court official"). The permitting authority court official shall notify the United States Marshals Service in writing of such authorization.
2. Employees of the United States Courts and the tenant agencies in Courthouse Facilities may possess cameras and recording devices. No recording or pictures may be generated of the court, court hearings, or other court functions without specific authorization by a court official (as listed above).
3. The General Services Administration Property Manager or his /her designee can authorize an individual or contract group to possess a camera or recording device for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing the Courthouse Facilities, to include repair and alterations.

## **C. Computers, Cellular Telephones, Pagers, and Related Electronic Equipment**

1. The use of portable computers and related electronic equipment in courtrooms and facilities adjacent to courtrooms is permitted, subject to specific restriction and direction by a judicial officer.
2. Cellular telephones are permitted within Courthouse Facilities. Their use is prohibited within courtrooms (judicial officers may require that telephones be fully turned off while in a courtroom, or they may be

confiscated upon entrance to any courtroom) and in any location where court proceedings may be disrupted by their use. Cellular telephones may not be used to photograph or record in any location inside a Courthouse Facility without prior written authorization (see Section B above).

3. Cellular telephones and pagers shall be set in a mode to emit no audible signal while on any courtroom floor of a Courthouse Facility.

#### **D. Weapons: Firearms, Knives, Explosives, and other Dangerous Items**

General Policy: Firearms, knives, explosives, and other dangerous weapons are prohibited from Courthouse Facilities and are subject to confiscation by the United States Marshals Service. Except as specifically provided herein, no person shall possess a weapon in any U.S. Courthouse within the Southern District of Indiana. It is illegal to possess a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a federal building with or without the intent to commit a crime (18 U.S.C. §930), and any person possessing same is subject to arrest (in addition to weapon confiscation). The prohibition on possession extends to all persons exempt from security screening as set forth in Section A above.

Firearms and Taser-type Weapons: This section of the policy covers only firearms and "Taser" type weapons. Local and federal law enforcement officers are permitted to maintain control of less than lethal weapons (including pepper spray, batons, etc.) throughout Courthouse Facilities (including courtrooms) within the Southern District, with limited exceptions.

1. Local Law Enforcement Officers - When a local law enforcement officer arrives at an entrance security control point and identifies himself/herself, the on-duty Court Security Officer shall question the law enforcement officer as to his/her business within the courthouse.
  - a. If the local law enforcement officer has official business inside the courthouse but not within a courtroom, the law enforcement officer shall fill out a "check-in" form that will be supplied by the USMS, and the law enforcement officer will be permitted to maintain control of his/her firearm(s). The screening Court Security Officer will instruct the law enforcement officer that he/she may not enter any courtroom while armed.
  - b. If the local law enforcement officer advises that he/she has business inside a courtroom, the officer must surrender any/all firearms (including "Taser" type weapons) at the

security control point, except in the following circumstances:

- i. Department of Corrections officers/guards and Sheriff's Deputies escorting prisoners inside a courtroom are permitted to carry their firearms inside the courtroom.
  - ii. Local law enforcement officers assigned to a federal task force (*e.g.* Indiana State Police, Indiana Drug Enforcement agent) are permitted to carry their firearm(s) into the courtroom as long as the firearm(s) are concealed.
- c. If a local law enforcement officer is present at the courthouse in a personal capacity (*i.e.*, for a purpose that is not associated with law enforcement), the officer shall surrender all firearms and other weapons, including non-lethal weapons, at the security control point. Examples of appearances that are personal in nature include appearing as a party to a case, a witness in a civil matter, or a debtor in a bankruptcy case.

2. Federal Law Enforcement Officers - Federal law enforcement officers are generally permitted to carry their firearms inside U.S. Courthouses in the Southern District and also inside courtroom(s) as long as the firearms are concealed. Those permitted to carry firearms inside courthouses specifically include:

- a. Employees of the United States Marshals Service and employees of contractors of the United States Marshals Service who serve as Court Security Officers who are authorized by law and agency regulations to carry firearms;
- b. Probation Officers who are employed by the United States Probation Office who are authorized by law and agency regulations to carry firearms; and
- c. Employees of the United States Federal Protective Service of the Department of Homeland Security and employees of contractors of the Department of Homeland Security who serve as Physical Security Officers who are authorized by law and agency regulations to carry firearms.

Federal law enforcement officers that are not assigned to a permanent duty station within one of the courthouses in the Southern District must fill

out a "check-in" form that will be supplied by the USMS upon entering a Courthouse Facility. If a federal law enforcement officer is present at the courthouse in a personal capacity (*i.e.*, for a purpose that is not associated with law enforcement), the officer shall surrender all firearms and other weapons at the security control point. Examples of appearances that are personal in nature include appearing as a party to a case, a witness in a civil matter, or a debtor in a bankruptcy case.

**E. UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE ("USMS")  
SECURITY ALERT PLAN**

The USMS SECURITY ALERT PLAN is divided into five levels. Escalating levels provide additional security requirements designed to supplement security procedures already mandated by USMS policy.

When the USMS Security Alert protocol is activated, the national policy guidelines directing security levels will supersede this court order.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

*All of which is done at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 19th day of December, 2016.*

For the Court,

/s/ Jane E. Magnus-Stinson  
JANE E. MAGNUS-STINSON, Chief Judge  
United States District Court