

THIRTY FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Administrative Order No. 217

An Administrative Order, Restricting Weapons in the "Courtrooms and Any Court Areas of Operation" of the Thirty-First Judicial District

1. The 31st Judicial District of Kansas includes Allen, Neosho, Woodson, and Wilson Counties.
2. The issue of safety in the Judicial Branch of Government is important, not only to all employees of the Kansas Judicial Branch but also to all persons who are summoned to a Courtroom or Court areas of operation, or those who appear for professional or personal reasons.
3. An integral part of any Court's duty to administer justice and fairly adjudicate disputes is to promote that all parties have the opportunity to advance their cause in an atmosphere of safety, decorum and fairness. It is fundamental that a trial Court is vested with the discretion to provide for security within a Courtroom or any Court areas of operation, and to take measures to promote the safety of Court officers and employees, parties, and the public in conducting the business of the Judicial Branch wherever it may occur.
4. A Court's inherent power is that belonging to it by virtue of being one of three separate branches of government. Inherent authority is limited to matters reasonably necessary for proper functioning of the judiciary, and the orderly and efficient exercise of the administration of justice. It is within the inherent power and discretion of a Court to impose additional security measures to provide for the safety of the public and persons in a Courtroom or any Court areas of operation.
5. For the purposes of this Administrative Order, "Courtroom(s) or any Court areas of operation" means those areas in any building, which are used for Court proceedings, or to conduct Court-related business, including, but not limited to: Courtrooms, ancillary Courtrooms, jury rooms, judge's chambers, offices of the Clerk of the District Court, Court Reporter, Court Services, Court-Appointed Special Advocate, and any other offices and areas used for official Court business; together with waiting areas, corridors, and hallways adjacent thereto.

6. This order includes “the Courtrooms or any Court areas of operation”:
 - a. the Allen County Courthouse, 1 North Washington, Iola, Kansas 66749;
 - b. the second floor of the Woodson County Courthouse, 105 West Rutledge, Yates Center, Kansas 66783, except the county attorney’s office;
 - c. the second floor of the Wilson County Courthouse, 615 Madison, Fredonia, Kansas 66736, except the county attorney’s office;
 - d. the Neosho County District Court, Chanute Division, Hudson Judicial Center, 102 South Lincoln, Chanute, Kansas 66720, except the county attorney’s office; and,
 - e. the Neosho County Courthouse, 100 South Main, Erie, Kansas 66733
7. Except as otherwise provided within this Administrative Order, all persons are prohibited from carrying or possessing any weapon, including a firearm or any explosive device, in “the Courtrooms or any Court areas of operation” of the Thirty-First Judicial District of Kansas.
8. Nothing herein shall limit the authority of a Judge of the District Court to authorize or restrict a law enforcement officer or security officer from possessing and carrying a weapon or firearm in a "Courtroom or any Court areas of operation" in the performance of their official duty. Nothing herein is intended or shall be construed to limit, in any way, a Judge of the District Court’s authority.
9. Appropriate notice of this weapon restriction and a copy of this order shall be posted for the "Courtrooms and Court areas of operation” of the Thirty-First Judicial District. A copy of this order shall be available in each Clerk of the District Court office. This Administrative Order may be enforced by any judge by the contempt power of the Court.
10. This Administrative Order shall be effective on and after July 1, 2013.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE THIRTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF KANSAS this _____ day of June, 2013.

Daniel Dale Creitz
Chief Judge