

NOTICE

PROHIBITION OF THE CARRYING OF WEAPONS INCLUSIVE OF FIREARMS IN STATE COURT LOCATIONS; LIMITED EXCEPTIONS; WEAPONS SCREENING

Attached Directive #10-23 formalizes the Judiciary's policy prohibiting the carrying weapons inclusive of firearms in state court locations, subject to narrow exceptions for authorized law enforcement officers and other security entities. [Updated signs](#) have been posted in state courthouses to inform court users of this policy.

Questions regarding weapons in state court facilities should be directed to the Court and Judicial Security Unit at courtsecurity.mailbox@njcourts.gov.



Glenn A. Grant
Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: June 19, 2023

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**TO: Assignment Judges
Trial Court Administrators**

DIRECTIVE #10-23

FROM: Glenn A. Grant, Administrative Director



**SUBJ: Prohibition of the Carrying of Weapons Inclusive of Firearms in
State Court Locations; Screening for Weapons**

DATE: June 19, 2023

This directive confirms that weapons, including firearms, are prohibited from being carried in state courthouses and other state court facilities. The only exceptions to this policy are (1) Sheriff's Officers who provide courthouse security, (2) on-duty law enforcement officers on official business, (3) armored car employees who are escorted by a Sheriff's Officer, and (4) any other authorized security entity.

Background

This policy reinforces the Judiciary's longstanding practice of prohibiting weapons in state courts. L. 2022, c. 131, enacted in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in N.Y. State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n v Bruen, 597 U.S. ___, 142 S.Ct. 2111, 213 L.Ed.2d 387 (2022), lists twenty-five locations as "sensitive" places where a person is prohibited from carrying a firearm or destructive device. Included in that list are courthouses, government buildings, and places used for governmental administration.

Signage & Screening

The Judiciary has updated signage in state court facilities to notify all court users of the prohibition on weapons including firearms. The posted list

of items that are prohibited from being brought into state court locations now specifically references firearms. Other than the exceptions set out above, individuals who have a permit to carry a firearm cannot carry their firearm into a state court house or other state judiciary facility.

In addition to public-facing signage, everyone who seeks to enter a state courthouse or court facility will be screened for weapons. Assignment Judges are working closely with County Sheriffs to update screening protocols as applicable.

Municipal Courts

While this policy applies specifically to state-level Judiciary locations, municipalities and counties are strongly urged to establish similar policies that restrict or prohibit the carrying of firearms in rooms or buildings where Municipal Courts are located. Assignment Judges and Trial Court Administrators are directed to work with municipal leaders on the establishment and enforcement of such protocols.

Questions

Questions regarding this Directive should be directed to the Court and Judicial Security Unit at courtsecurity.mailbox@njcourts.gov.

cc: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
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Hon. Mala Sundar
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