

MOHAVE COUNTY COURTS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

TITLE: 2.03 WEAPONS IN THE COURTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/10/2014

REVISED DATE: 11/30/2017

A. PURPOSE AND POLICY:

The security and safety of the employees, litigants and users of the Mohave County Courts is of paramount concern. Therefore, no weapons (as defined by the Court's Security Manager) are allowed in any of the Court buildings within Mohave County. The **ONLY EXCEPTIONS** to this policy are as listed:

1. All Law Enforcement Officers, Detention, Probation, and Court Security Officers either in uniform or with visibly displayed law enforcement identification who appear in Court and while in the performance of official duties may bypass the security screening system and keep possession of their weapons in the Courthouse. These officers may be required to provide a subpoena or official paperwork to confirm business in the Court.
2. Law Enforcement Officers, Detention, Probation, and Court Security Officers, and Fire and Medical personnel may bypass the security screening system when responding to an emergency situation at the Courthouse.
3. The Presiding Judge shall determine whether judges and other court staff may be permitted to carry weapons into the Courthouse. The Court Security Manager will maintain a list of judges and court staff that have been authorized to carry weapons by the Presiding Judge.

B. OTHER PROVISIONS:

1. All Law Enforcement Officers, Detention, Probation, and Court Security Officers coming to Court as a party in a case or appearing for personal business shall not wear their officially sanctioned uniforms, shall not enter the Courthouse with weapons, shall not use their law enforcement identification to bypass any security screening systems, and will comply with all screening procedures required by court security.
2. A Judicial Officer may order a Law Enforcement Officer to place all weapons into a gun locker, upon a finding that the facts and circumstances raise a safety, security or ethical issue if the Law Enforcement Officer remains armed in the courtroom.
3. County Attorneys, Public Defenders, Legal Defenders and members of the Private Bar are not permitted to enter the Courthouse with weapons.

C. STORAGE OF WEAPONS:

1. Persons who lawfully possess a weapon and request the use of a gun locker to store a weapon will be required to provide photo identification: a driver's license or state

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identification card are acceptable. The Court Security Officer will escort the individual to the gun locker. The individual will place the weapon and any magazines, speed loaders or loose rounds into a large manila envelope provided by court security. The individual will clip their photo identification to the outside of the manila envelope with a paper clip provided by court security and place the envelope into an available gun locker. Court security will close and lock the locker door. When the individual is finished with their business at the Court, they will contact court security for the return of their weapon. Court security will unlock the gun locker and check the photo identification to ensure that the weapon is returned to its rightful owner. Court security will return the photo identification to the individual and advise them that they may remove their weapon from the manila envelope. Court security will then advise the individual with the weapon to please leave the building and the Court property as expeditiously as possible.

D. VIOLATIONS OF TITLE 2.03:

1. Violations of this policy may result in arrest for criminal trespass, pursuant to A.R.S. §13-1502.