

**The Circuit Court for Dorchester County  
State of Maryland**

Administrative Order  
2015-05

**WHEREAS**, world, national and local events have raised an awareness of the need to provide adequate security and protection for governmental buildings and the people who work and visit therein; and

**WHEREAS**, the Circuit Court for Dorchester County has determined it to be in the best interests of those who work in or conduct business at the Dorchester County Circuit Courthouse to be afforded all reasonable protection from harm while at the Courthouse; and

**WHEREAS**, the unauthorized use of electronic devices and possession of weapons may operate to interfere with the efficient administration of justice, impair the safety and welfare of visitors and staff and have a negative impact upon the Court's security plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Court has further determined that increased security measures will enhance the effective administration of the judicial business conducted in the Dorchester County Circuit Courthouse and provide increased protection for persons, public records and the property of Dorchester County and the State of Maryland;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015, by the Circuit Court for Dorchester County, Maryland as follows:

1. That the Sheriff for Dorchester County or his designee shall cause a "Notice" in the form attached to and incorporated by this Administrative Order to be posted in conspicuous locations at all entrances to the Dorchester County Circuit Courthouse and outside the public entrance to each courtroom therein; and

2. That those security personnel who are assigned by the Sheriff for Dorchester County to provide security services to the Dorchester County Circuit Court shall implement and enforce compliance with the terms of the aforesaid "Notice" to the fullest extent required and as permitted by law; and

3. That anyone found to be in violation of this Order and the attached Notice shall have the prohibited items confiscated and forfeited and may be subject to a contempt finding or criminal charges with the resulting penalties of incarceration and/or fine.

  
Judge Brett W. Wilson

## **NOTICE**

**ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE MUST PASS THROUGH A METAL DETECTOR AND SUBMIT ITEMS IN THEIR POSSESSION TO X-RAY SCANNING AND MAY BE SUBJECTED TO ADDITIONAL ELECTRONIC SCANNING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCOVERING WEAPONS AND CONTRABAND.**

**ALL BRIEFCASES, PURSES, PACKAGES, BAGS, ETC. ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION BY DEPUTIES OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.**

**NO WEAPONS OF ANY KIND ARE PERMITTED ON THE PREMISES OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE. WEAPONS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO: FIREARMS, KNIVES, CLUBS, CHEMICAL MACE, PEPPER SPRAY OR ANY OTHER ITEM WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED BY THE DORCHESTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AS CAPABLE OF BEING USED AS A WEAPON.**

**UNIFORMED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE PERMITTED TO BRING ISSUED EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING WEAPONS, ONTO THE COURT PREMISES. PLAIN CLOTHES AND OFF DUTY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MUST SHOW A VALID LAW ENFORCEMENT IDENTIFICATION CARD TO SECURITY PERSONNEL BEFORE ENTERING THE COURTHOUSE WITH PERMITTED WEAPONS. ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHO IS ON THE COURTHOUSE PREMISES FOR ANY NON-LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSE OR FOR A PURPOSE NOT RELATED TO THEIR ASSIGNED LAW ENFORCEMENT DUTIES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO POSSESS A WEAPON OF ANY KIND.**

**NO COMPUTERS, SMART PHONES, CELL PHONES, TABLETS, PAGERS, TEXT MESSAGING OR ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE IS PERMITTED IN THE COURTHOUSE UNLESS IN ACCORD WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2010-10, ENTERED DECEMBER 28, 2010.**

**NO CAMERAS, RECORDERS OR ANY SUCH VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING DEVICES ARE PERMITTED ON THE PREMISES OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE, UNLESS APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE. WEDDING AND ADOPTION PROCEEDING PARTICIPANTS MAY BE PERMITTED TO BRING SUCH DEVICES INTO THE COURTHOUSE FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF RECORDING ANY NON-LITIGATION IMAGES OR SOUNDS RELATED TO THOSE EVENTS.**

**ATTORNEYS, COURT PERSONNEL AND ON-DUTY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE PERMITTED TO BRING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES INTO THE COURTHOUSE BUILDING, PROVIDED THAT SAID DEVICES SHALL BE TURNED OFF OR SET ON SILENT ALERT MODE WHILE IN A COURTROOM.**

**NO FOOD OR DRINK IS PERMITTED IN A COURTROOM.**

**ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE MUST PRESENT PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION UPON THE REQUEST OF A SHERIFF'S DEPUTY AND MAY BE REQUIRED TO SIGN A ROSTER WHEN ENTERING AND EXITING THE BUILDING.**

**ANY PERSON WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS NOTICE MUST VACATE THE PREMISES IMMEDIATELY.**

**SO ORDERED THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2015.**



**JUDGE BRETT W. WILSON**