



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR BALTIMORE CITY (DISTRICT 1)

Administrative Order No. 2025-2

(Universal Screening)

WHEREAS, the safety of all people who enter any of the four courthouses of the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City (District 1), including employees, staff, stakeholders, attorneys, and visitors, is of paramount importance;

WHEREAS, following the murder of Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson, the Maryland General Assembly enacted the Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson Judicial Security Act, which created the Task Force to Ensure the Safety of Judicial Facilities (Task Force);

WHEREAS, the Task Force issued a report identifying minimum requirements for courthouse safety in identified areas, current deficiencies in those areas, and recommended legislative proposals to ensure the minimum requirements can be met;

WHEREAS, the Task Force reviewed best practices, including those from the National Center for State Courts, to recommend minimum standards for providing secure public spaces;

WHEREAS, one such recommendation included universal screening of individuals entering court facilities, meaning that all court personnel, attorneys, and members of the public who enter a District 1 courthouse shall be subject to security screening; and

WHEREAS, increasing threats of violence towards judges and court personnel, as well as multiple attempts by individuals, including attorneys, to enter courthouses in District 1 and across Maryland with firearms and other weapons, have reinforced the importance of following best practices in security for sensitive places like courthouses,

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 1-607 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article of the Maryland Code and Maryland Rule 16-107(b), it is this 17th day of October, 2025, hereby:

ORDERED, starting ***Monday, December 1, 2025***, that all individuals entering District 1 courthouses during normal business hours shall be subject to security screening protocols established by the Supervisory Bailiff for District 1 and approved by the Administrative Judge;

ORDERED, that bar association attorney cards do not exempt attorneys or others from screening requirements;

ORDERED, that individuals who do not comply with screening protocols shall be denied entrance to all District 1 courthouses;

ORDERED, that anyone refusing to submit to metal detection scanning and/or refusing a bailiff's appropriate request, including *inter alia* emptying their pockets, taking off their belt, or surrendering handbags, packages, briefcases or other containers for examination, shall be denied entrance into the District 1 courthouse;

ORDERED, that anyone refusing to submit to a detailed search upon activation of an alarm, which cannot be explained or otherwise resolved, shall be ordered to leave the premises and subject to trespassing charges if they refuse to leave;

ORDERED, that the Supervisory Bailiff for District 1 shall coordinate with the Administrative Clerk for District 1 and Administrative Commissioner for District 1 to ensure that adequate security personnel are assigned to each of the courthouse buildings, based on expected volume of visitors, so that security screening does not unduly delay entrance to the building;

ORDERED, that individuals entering District 1 courthouses after normal business hours shall be subject to the screening required by security personnel employed by the Department of General Services (DGS) in buildings owned by the State or the appropriate landlord for buildings leased by a unit of State or local government;

ORDERED, that firearms or other weapons of any kind are not permitted within the courthouse buildings unless authorized by the District Court of Maryland Administrative Regulations. Any unauthorized weapons or firearm identified during screening or at any other time, even if the individual has a valid handgun carry permit, shall be impounded and retained for use as evidence, and may be forfeited, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of in accordance with law. Any person unlawfully wearing, carrying, or transporting firearms within a courthouse building is subject to criminal prosecution, including violation of Section 4-111(d) of the Criminal Law Article of the Maryland Code.

This Order may be revised by the undersigned as circumstances warrant.

Geoffrey G. Hengerer

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Administrative Judge

District 1

Baltimore City, Maryland

CC:

Chief Judge John P. Morrissey, District Court of Maryland

Administrative Judges, District Court of Maryland

Judges, District 1

Senior Judges, District 1

Hon. Audrey J.S. Carrión, Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Hon. Brett R. Wilson, Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Washington County and

Chair of the Security Subcommittee

Sheriff Samuel L. Cogen, Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

Mary Abrams, Administrative Clerk, District 1

Linda Lewis, Administrative Commissioner, District 1

James Byrd, Supervisory Bailiff, District 1

Lead Bailiffs, District 1

Division Chiefs, District 1

Staff, District 1

Gregg Solomon, Esq., Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City

Justin Dickman, Esq., Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City

Marguerite Lanaux, Esq., Office of the Public Defender

Alycia Capozello, Esq., Office of the Public Defender

President, Bar Association of Baltimore City

President, Maryland State Bar Association

Presidents, Specialty Bar Associations