

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: SECURITY OF AND ENTRY INTO )  
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSES )  
AND FEDERAL COURT FACILITIES ) Misc. No. 17-125  
IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF )  
PENNSYLVANIA )

**ORDER**

This Order applies to all United States Courthouses and Federal court facilities located in the Western District of Pennsylvania, specifically including:

1. The Joseph F. Weis, Jr. United States Courthouse, 700 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219;
  2. The United States Courthouse, 17 South Park Row, Erie, Pennsylvania 16501;
- and
3. The United States Courthouse, 208 Penn Traffic Building, 319 Washington Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15901.

Additionally, court proceedings may be held in other facilities or buildings from time to time. This Order covers all court locations as described above and any Federal court facility as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(3), as follows:

The term “Federal court facility” means the courtroom, judges’ chambers, witness rooms, jury deliberation rooms, attorney conference rooms, prisoner holding cells, offices of the court clerks, the United States attorney, and the United States marshal, probation and parole offices, and adjoining corridors of any court of the United States.

## **ENTERING AND LEAVING THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE**

Except in an emergency, entry into and exit from any United States Courthouse is restricted to designated doors only.

No person having access to any United States Courthouse or Federal court facility or any secure areas via key, key card, or other device, used to open doors or to call elevators, shall permit unauthorized individuals access to any building or any elevator, locked stairwell door, or other locked door.

## **WEAPONS**

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(2):

The term “dangerous weapon” means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2½ inches in length.

For purposes of this Order, the term “dangerous weapon” or “dangerous device” is inclusive of all items identified as prohibited items in the February 2013 “Items Prohibited from Federal Facilities: An Interagency Security Committee Standard,” attached as Exhibit 1 to this Order, and all future iterations of that standard. Further, for purposes of this Order as it pertains to entry and access by the general public, the terms “dangerous weapon” and “dangerous device” are inclusive of all edged weapons regardless of length.

**Courthouse Environs:** No one other than federal judicial officers and authorized law enforcement officers with proper permits may bring or attempt to bring a dangerous weapon or device into the United States Courthouse or Federal court facility. Except as provided below, other than U.S. Judges, U.S. Marshals, U.S. Court Security Officers, Federal Protective Service police officers and contract guards, all law enforcement officers must secure all dangerous

weapons and devices with the United States Marshals Service. Federal law enforcement officers with offices in the United States Courthouse or Federal court facility, other than those listed above, shall not be required to secure their dangerous weapons and devices with the United States Marshals Service but, rather, shall secure such items in their offices.

In the event of an emergency situation and in response thereto, the U.S. Marshal or his designees may waive the restrictions identified above on allowing dangerous weapons or devices into a United States Courthouse or Federal court facility.

**Courtrooms:** Only United States Marshals and United States Court Security Officers are allowed in courtrooms with dangerous weapons or devices. All other law enforcement officers attending court proceedings must secure dangerous weapons and devices with the United States Marshals Service.

### **SCREENING**

Employees of the United States Marshals Service, or agents so designated by the United States Marshal, shall operate x-ray units and walk-through metal detectors for the purpose of screening all people who enter any United States Courthouse or Federal court facility.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC ENTRY AND ACCESS**

All persons (except resident federal employees and visiting employees of the U.S. Courts, Western District of Pennsylvania, dealt with herein) entering any United States Courthouse or Federal court facility shall submit to a screening for dangerous weapons or devices by passing through the metal detectors operated by employees of the United States Marshals Service or designees and shall submit to further screening or search if the metal detector registers a reading which, in the opinion of the operator, requires further screening. No one refusing to submit to such screening for dangerous weapons or devices will be permitted to enter.

Individuals entering any United States Courthouse or Federal court facility who have in their possession and/or are carrying, delivering, or otherwise transporting any briefcase, suitcase, purse, package, or other container (including mail and items delivered by private carrier) shall surrender any such item for screening for dangerous weapons or devices through x-ray device and/or personal inspection by employees of the United States Marshals Service or designees.

No one refusing to surrender any handheld possessions, pocket contents, briefcase, suitcase, purse, package, or other container (including mail or private carrier items) for screening will be permitted access to the facility.

**RESIDENT FEDERAL AND VISITING U.S. COURT EMPLOYEE  
ENTRY AND ACCESS**

All resident federal employees entering any United States Courthouse or Federal court facility in the Western District of Pennsylvania may be permitted to pass security screening after a process approved by the United States Marshals Service or designees, which may include inspection of their federal picture identification cards and/or scanning such cards and entry of access codes.

Resident federal employees and visiting employees of the U.S. Courts, Western District of Pennsylvania, must have building tenant identification or government-issued picture employee identification in order to be permitted access as an employee. If a building tenant employee does not have his/her employee identification, then that building tenant employee will be subject to non-tenant visitor screening requirements and procedures.

**VISITING FEDERAL EMPLOYEE (NON U.S. COURTS) ENTRY AND ACCESS**

All visiting federal employees entering any United States Courthouse or Federal court facility in which proper written/e-mail notification has been provided by the hosting agency to the United States Marshals Service may be permitted to pass security screening after an inspection of their federal picture identification card by employees of the United States Marshals Service or designees.

**RANDOM SCREENINGS—RESIDENT AND VISITING EMPLOYEES**

Employees of the United States Marshals Service or designees shall perform random x-ray unit and walk-through metal detector screenings of resident and visiting federal employee personnel entering any United States Courthouse or Federal court facility at various times throughout the calendar year to ensure comprehensive facility security.

**EXCEPTIONS**

Exceptions to these rules can be made only with permission of a federal judicial officer of the Western District of Pennsylvania or the United States Marshal.

**VIOLATIONS**

Any violation of any portion of this Order may result in confiscation of the prohibited device, removal from the building, and/or the imposition of contempt sanctions against the violator individually and, if attending in the capacity of any employee or agent, against the employer or principal.

This Order was approved by the Article III judges of the United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania, on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2017. The Order shall take effect immediately.

FOR THE COURT,

/s/ Joy Flowers Conti  
Joy Flowers Conti, Chief Judge  
United States District Court