

**SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

**Administrative Court Order
Effective August 2, 1999**

WHEREAS: The Ventura County Sheriff is charged with providing security within the courtrooms in which the Courts of this State and County conduct judicial business;

WHEREAS: Commencing in 1995, the Courts of this county issued security orders directing the Sheriff to conduct weapons screening measures on the fourth floor of the Hall of Justice;

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the aforementioned security order, the Sheriff has confiscated numerous illegal weapons, including knives, chemical agents, and a variety of other dangerous weapons, including hammers, screwdrivers, awls, and a folding hand saw;

WHEREAS: Reported violent incidents are causing increased concern for courthouse security throughout the nation;

WHEREAS: Judicial notice may be taken that violence and threats of violent acts directed against courthouses have given rise to an urgent need for protective measures;

WHEREAS: There is a clear need to protect courthouses from a real danger of violence;

WHEREAS: Courthouse weapons screening will be no more intrusive than necessary to protect against the danger involved;

WHEREAS: Persons seeking entry into courthouses may be given adequate notice by signage posted at each entrance that their person and property may be searched prior to entering the courts; and,

WHEREAS: Weapons screening shall be expanded, effective August 1, 1999, to include the entire Ventura County Hall of Justice ("Ventura Courthouse"), located at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California, and the East County Division ("Simi Valley Courthouse") located at 3855-F Alamo Street, Simi Valley, California. All side entrances shall be restricted to use by security personnel, or users deemed necessary by the Sheriff. All others shall access the Hall of Justice by way of either of the two main lobby entrances (reference Ventura County Ordinance, 5511(a)).

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IT IS SO ORDERED:

All persons entering or otherwise present in county facilities wherein courts conduct official business shall consent to any request by the Sheriff of Ventura County to submit to a weapons search, which may include metal detection equipment. If, after searching, the Sheriff reasonably believes a discovered item(s) may compromise effective security, although lawful to possess, he may prohibit possession of the item(s) in the facility by directing the individual to leave the building. *No person shall be allowed to enter the courthouse while in possession of these items.*

The Sheriff is authorized, in his discretion, to exempt from weapons search any peace officer on official business displaying current, valid, official photographic identification.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

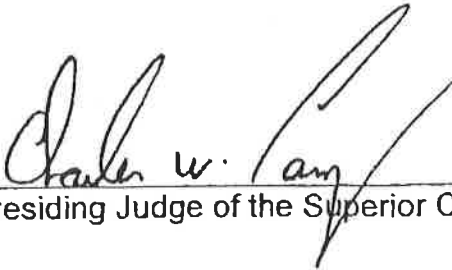
No person, other than a peace officer on official business, within courthouse facilities, shall possess a firearm, knife, teargas, taser, stungun or similar weapons or device, as defined or listed in Penal Code Sections 171(b), 244.5, 12401 and 12402. *This prohibition shall be enforced whether or not the person possesses a valid license, certificate or permit therefor.*

A peace officer shall not possess any weapon(s) within courthouse facilities while in attendance at any court proceeding in which they are a party.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

At each courthouse facility, the Sheriff shall ensure signage exists which is clearly visible to the public before entry, declaring the prohibition of the possession of the aforementioned weapons by order of the Superior Court of Ventura County. The signage shall also include that persons entering the facility are subject to search under authority of Penal Code Section 171(b).

Nothing in this Order is intended to, nor shall it, diminish the legal and lawful authority of the Sheriff as a peace officer.



Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

8/2/99

Date