

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

US DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
FILED

JUN 02 2026

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2026-03

WEAPONS IN COURT FACILITIES

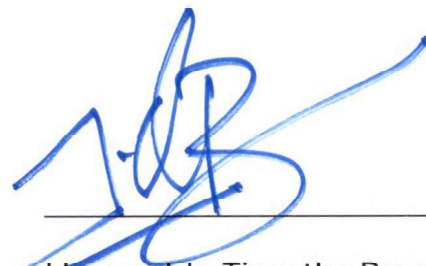
By Mistee Aaron
Deputy Clerk

The possession of firearms or other dangerous weapons---to include those prohibited by 18 U.S.C. 930-----in any federal court facility or upon such property in Western Arkansas is prohibited. Areas covered by this prohibition include, but are not limited to, all federal courtrooms and places where federal court proceedings are conducted wherever located, all locations specifically listed in 18 U.S.C. 930, court facility entrances or exits, lobbies, foyers, and secured parking lots. This prohibition applies to any state or federal law enforcement officer or guard unless specifically excepted by the U.S. Marshal or his/her designee. The prohibition does not however, apply to Article III Judicial Officers, U.S. Magistrate and Bankruptcy Judges of this Court, the U.S. Marshal Service and U.S. Probation for the Western District of Arkansas.

This order replaces General Order No. 2019-3 "Weapons in Court Facilities"

SO ORDERED

Dated: June 2, 2026



Honorable Timothy Brooks

Chief United States District Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2026-03

BUILDING SECURITY & SCREENING

PURPOSE: To establish a General Order governing building security and screening procedures for all federal court facilities located in the Western District of Arkansas.

AUTHORITY: Pursuant to the U.S. General Services Administration, Rules and Regulations Governing Conduct on Federal Property, Title 41, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 102-74.370, as defined by 40 U.S.C 486(c), "Federal agencies may, at their discretion, inspect packages, briefcases, and other containers in the immediate possession of visitors, employees, or other persons arriving on, working at, visiting, or departing from Federal property."

In addition, under 40 U.S.C 1315, the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-21), the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), and pursuant to the authority of the Interagency Security Committee (ISC) contained in Executive Order (E.O.) 12977 (as amended), the REAL ID Act of 2005, the Facility Security Committee (FSC), chaired by the Chief and/or Presiding U.S. District Judge as the Designated Official (DO), determines the facility security level (FSL) as well as the implementation of security countermeasures and practices for all Federal court facilities in the Western District of Arkansas.

Further, 28 U.S.C. § 566(a) and (e)(1)(A) establishes the United States Marshals Service (USMS) authority to protect federal courts, federal jurists, court officers, witnesses, and other threatened persons in the interests of justice where criminal intimidation impedes on the judicial process or any other official proceeding. The Court Improvement Security Act of 2007, PL 100- 117, January 7, 2008, states that the USMS "...retains final authority regarding security requirements for the judicial branch of the Federal Government". The Director's authority to issue written directives is derived from 28 U.S.C. § 561(g) and 28 C.F.R. § 0.111.

BUILDING SCREENING PROCEDURES: The following screening procedures shall be utilized by Court Security Officers (CSOs) at all federal court facilities in the Western District of Arkansas.

Full Screening: Full screening will be used for all persons, subject to the limited exceptions set forth below. Full screening consists of a person passing personal items through an X-ray machine and physically passing through a walk-through metal detector (WTMD). Additional screening measures, such as the removal of shoes, the use of a handheld metal detector (HHMD), and pat-down searches may be used to resolve alarms or as an alternative method of screening if an individual opts out of regular screening methods. A pat-down is limited to patting down the subject's clothing for no more than what is required to detect the presence of weapons, explosives, or other prohibited items. Government issued photo IDs will not be required except in the event of heightened security protocols issued directly by the Chief or Presiding U.S. District Judge.

Limited Screening: Limited screening may only be used for exempted persons entering court facilities through the public entrance. Limited screening consists of the CSO visually verifying the person entering the facility as an exempted category. If the CSO cannot immediately and confidently determine that a person should be exempt, the CSO will ask for government issued photo identification (i.e. official agency ID or HSPD-12 photo ID). Once verified as exempt, a person may be admitted without further screening. Exempted persons include:

- (a) U.S. Judicial Officers and their immediate family.
- (b) Employees of tenant agencies in the facility.
- (c) The United States Attorney, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and staff.
- (d) The Federal Public Defender, Deputy Federal Public Defenders, and staff.
- (e) U.S. Bankruptcy employees and trustees.
- (f) Employees of the General Services Administration.
- (g) Contractors with a valid HSPD-12 photo identification card with unescorted access or temporary GSA security clearance.

Employee Entrances: Employee entrances may only be used by the following persons. All other persons entering a federal court facility must use a public entrance and go through the appropriate screening procedures.

- (a) U.S. Judicial Officers and their immediate family.
- (b) Employees of tenant agencies in the facility.
- (c) The United States Attorney, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and staff.
- (d) The Federal Public Defender, Deputy Federal Public Defenders, and staff.
- (e) U.S. Bankruptcy employees and trustees.
- (f) Employees of the General Services Administration.
- (g) Visitors may use an employee entrance only if accompanied by a tenant agency employee. CSOs may verify a visitor's identity and may be subject to full screening.
- (h) Contractors with a valid HSPD-12 photo ID card with unescorted access or temporary GSA security clearance.

Contractor Exceptions: Contractors who possess a temporary GSA security clearance may enter through an employee entrance only if escorted by an HSPD-12 cleared contractor with unescorted access or a tenant agency representative. Contractors who do not possess a security clearance will be screened by CSOs and escorted by a tenant agency representative while working in private space. The USMS will be notified in advance of any contractor work being performed inside the federal court facility to ensure security protocols are followed.

Prohibited Items: Pursuant to 41 CFR 102-74.440, 18 U.S.C 930, the Interagency Security Committee (ISC) Standards, and General Order 2019-3, the following items have been identified by the Facility Security Committee (FSC) as prohibited items in any federal court facility or upon such property in the Western District of Arkansas. No person may possess a prohibited item unless granted an exception or exemption by the U.S. Marshal Service (reference General Order

2019-3 and USMS Western District of Arkansas Policy Directive, Firearms or Other Dangerous Weapons on or Inside Court Facilities). Prohibited items include but are not limited to:

(a) Firearms & Project Weapons (the list of prohibited firearms and projectile weapons includes, but is not limited to)

1. Firearms or similar device that expels a projectile through the action of an explosive (unless meeting the exemptions in 18 U.S.C 930(d));
2. BB or pellet guns;
3. Compressed air guns;
4. Antique firearms;
5. Flare guns;
6. Realistic replica or toy firearms (unless meeting the exemptions listed in 18 U.S.C 930(d));
7. Spear guns;
8. Starter pistols;
9. Stun guns, cattle prods, dart-firing stun guns, and other electric weapons or controlled devices (unless meeting the exemptions in 18 U.S.C 930(d));
10. Ammunition, shotgun shells, or firearm cartridges, black powder, smokeless propellant powder (unless meeting the exemptions in 18 U.S.C 930(d));
11. Slingshots.

(b) Bladed, Edged or Sharp Tools or Implements (the list of prohibited bladed, edged or sharp tools, or implements includes, but is not limited to)

1. Axes and hatchets;
2. Bows and arrows;
3. Ice axes/ice picks;
4. Throwing stars (martial arts);
5. Knives, sabers, swords, daggers, and other bladed devices regardless of size (unless meeting the exemptions in 18 U.S.C 930(d));
6. Scissors and multi-tools;
7. Razor-type blades such as box cutters, utility knives, and razor blades not in a cartridge (unless meeting the exemptions in 18 U.S.C 930(d));
8. Handcuffs, handcuff keys, and restraints of any type (unless meeting the exemptions in 18 U.S.C 930(d)).

(c) Club-like Items and Striking Devices (the list of club-like items and striking devices includes, but is not limited to)

1. Baseball bats;
2. Billy clubs;
3. Blackjacks;
4. Hammers, crowbars, screw drivers and other large tools;
5. Brass knuckles;
6. Chains in excess of 12 inches (Jewelry exceptions can be made);

7. Night sticks and expandable batons (unless meeting the exemptions in 18 U.S.C 930(d));
8. Martial arts weapons, including nunchucks and kubatons.

(d) Destructive Devices, Explosives, or Combustible Chemical Compounds and Mixtures (the list of destructive devices, explosives, or any chemical compound or mixture that has a property of yielding readily to combustion or oxidation upon the application of heat, flame, or shock includes, but is not limited to)

1. Blasting caps or detonators;
2. Dynamite, nitroglycerin, trinitrotoluene, ammonium nitrate, and others;
3. Fireworks;
4. Gunpowder;
5. Hand grenades, mine, bomb, rocket, missile, pipe bomb, plastic explosives;
6. Realistic replicas of explosives or similar devices (unless meeting the exemptions in 18 U.S.C 930(d));
7. Explosive or expanding gases;
8. Gas torches, matches, lighters of any kind;
9. Flammable liquids or gel (i.e., gasoline, turpentine, paint thinner, rubbing alcohol) (unless meeting the exemptions in 18 U.S.C 930(d)).

(e) Disabling Chemicals and Other Dangerous Items (the list of disabling chemicals and other dangerous items includes, but is not limited to)

1. Mace, pepper spray, tear gas, tear gas gun, or other chemical spray designed for self-defense (unless meeting the exemptions in 18 U.S.C 930(d));
2. Spillable batteries, except those in wheelchairs or similar devices used by a mobility impaired individual;
3. Spray paint (unless meeting the exemptions in 18 U.S.C 930(d));
4. Poisonous gases, toxic industrial chemicals and/or materials
5. Tobacco and electronic cigarettes

Electronic Devices: Electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, cameras, smart watches, smart glasses, and laptops, are controlled items that the general public are not permitted to have in any federal court facility in the Western District of Arkansas unless otherwise authorized by the Chief or Presiding U.S. District Judge for each facility.

Exempted persons include:

- (a) U.S. Judicial Officers and their immediate family.
- (b) Employees of tenant agencies in the facility.
- (c) The United States Attorney, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and staff.
- (d) The Federal Public Defender, Deputy Federal Public Defenders, and staff.
- (e) U.S. Bankruptcy employees and trustees.
- (f) Employees of the General Services Administration.
- (g) Contractors with a valid HSPD-12 photo identification card with unescorted access or temporary GSA security clearance.