

# Dallas County Courthouse Weapons Restrictions

## Background

Recently authorized legislation (House File 2502) identified a need to reauthorize the current weapons prohibition once ordered by the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The Dallas County Board of Supervisors, by order of the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District have developed and maintain a Courthouse Security Plan. The Courthouse Security Plan is a confidential record pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 22.7(50) which contains physical and procedural information that may, if disclosed, increase the vulnerability of the facility or persons within the facility to attack.

It is the intent of this policy statement to be attached to the Dallas County Courthouse Security Plan as a public facing appendix to the Dallas County Courthouse Security Plan in order to effectively communicate restrictions, security measures and screening processes that have impact on the public's way of business.

Overall, the intent of this policy statement is to maintain a safe operating atmosphere for the county offices and courts system operating within the Dallas County Courthouse.

## Courthouse Weapons and Screening Policy

Possession of weapons is prohibited in the Dallas County Courthouse beyond the screening checkpoint (known as the secure area). No one shall enter the courthouse while in possession of a weapon except for Law Enforcement Officer as defined in Iowa Code Chapter 80B.

Any individual and their belongings entering the Dallas County Courthouse shall be subject to screening for the possession of prohibited weapons by magnetometer<sup>1</sup> or alternative method<sup>2</sup>. Any person attempting to enter the courthouse, including those who have a valid, non-professional, concealed weapons permit shall be required to secure their weapon outside of the courthouse prior to entry.

Prohibited weapons include, but are not limited to;

1. Firearms,
2. Explosive devices,
3. Knives, regardless of length or size,
4. Chemical agents, such as Mace, OC or pepper spray,
5. Cutting instruments,
6. Self-defense weapons,
7. Any items deemed as a danger or threat to courthouse safety and security by court security deputies.

Any person who attempts to enter the courthouse secure area with a firearm or prohibited weapon will be denied access and may be subject to arrest. Any individual found in the secure area of the courthouse with a prohibited weapon may be subject to removal and arrest.

Authorized by Resolution 2020-0074 and effective upon signing.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2020.

---

Kim Chapman, Chairman  
Dallas County Board of Supervisors

---

<sup>1</sup> Medical exclusions apply.

<sup>2</sup> Including but not limited to, handheld magnetometer, X-Ray