

**IN THE COURTS OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

Administrative Order 2013-34

(modifying in part Administrative Order 2012-31)

**IN RE: LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS/POSSESSION OF
 WEAPONS WITHIN SECURE FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to set forth orders for the safety and protection of court personnel, litigants, lawyers, witnesses, jurors, and members of the general public while within the court facilities of the First Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS authority to exercise administrative supervision over all courts within the judicial circuit is vested in the undersigned Chief Judge by Rule 2.215, *Florida Rules of Judicial Administration*, it is

ORDERED:

1. All facilities designated for use by the judiciary, in whole or in part, assigned to the First Judicial Circuit are designated as Secure Facilities.
2. Any person who wishes to enter a Secure Facility shall enter through authorized entrances only.
3. Sworn Law Enforcement Officers specifically assigned to provide security for and within a Secure Facility will be permitted to retain their weapons while in an official capacity of providing security within a Secure Facility whether in uniform or in civilian clothing.

4. Sworn investigators of the Office of State Attorney and members of the judiciary assigned to the First Judicial Circuit are considered extensions of the officers specifically assigned to provide security for Secure Facilities and shall be permitted to retain possession of their weapons while in an official capacity within a Secure Facility.
5. Uniformed Law Enforcement Officers pursuant to section 943.10(1), *Florida Statutes*, in part but not in whole, at the discretion of each Court Emergency Management Team (CEMT) by county within the First Judicial Circuit, and with proper agency photo identification will be permitted to retain their weapons while in an official capacity as a Law Enforcement Officer within a Secure Facility.
6. Law Enforcement Officers out of uniform and in civilian clothing, while in an official capacity as a Law Enforcement Officer within a Secure Facility, will be subject to the requirements of this Administrative Order and may be asked to surrender their weapons to security personnel before entry into a Secure Facility. The CEMT of each county shall develop a policy regarding whether “plainclothes” officers acting in an official capacity as a Law Enforcement Officer may be allowed to retain their weapons within a Secure Facility, and under what circumstances.
7. Any Law Enforcement Officer, **involved in a proceeding in his or her personal capacity, whether as a party, a witness, or a spectator, and not specifically in an official capacity as a Law Enforcement Officer**, shall surrender any items which the general public would be required to surrender to the proper authorities before entry into a Secure Facility will be permitted. Failure to comply may

result in criminal prosecution, contempt of court proceedings, or the revocation of privileges bestowed or any other sanction or disciplinary action as may be deemed appropriate by the employee's employer.

DONE AND ORDERED at Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida this 19th day of April, 2013.

/S/ TERRY D. TERRELL

TERRY D. TERRELL
CHIEF JUDGE

Copies furnished to:

All First Judicial Circuit and County Judges
All First Judicial Circuit Clerks of Court
The Honorable William Eddins, State Attorney
The Honorable Bruce Miller, Public Defender
All First Judicial Circuit Law Enforcement Agencies
All First Judicial Circuit Chairs of Boards of County Commissioners
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