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CLERK OF THE SEDGWICK COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
CASE NUMBER: SG-2025-MV-000064
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 25-1

WEAPONS IN THE SEDGWICK COUNTY COURTHOUSES

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER revises, amends and updates the Eighteen Judicial District *Administrative Order 14-2 issued on June 3, 2014*.

Duties of a Kansas Sheriff under K.S.A. 19-813 and the Sedgwick County Courthouse Police pursuant to Sedgwick County Resolution 29-2014 include keeping and preserving the peace and quieting and suppressing all affrays, riots, and unlawful assemblies and insurrections. Such duties under K.S.A. 19-812 and Resolution 29-2014 include attending to the several courts of record held within the county.

Based upon experiences of the judges in this district, it is found that the Sedgwick County Courthouses can be emotionally charged and potentially dangerous buildings. There are adversarial civil proceedings, including divorces and residential foreclosures occurring almost daily. There are criminal proceedings, including appearances, trials and sentencing for persons charged with serious felony crimes, up to and including homicide. There are juvenile proceedings, including child in need of care and parental termination cases. Participants in any of these proceedings or their attending families or friends may resort to rash or violent acts of retribution, revenge or escape. Accordingly prohibiting the possession of carrying knives and similar weapons in the Courthouses falls under the duties of a Kansas Sheriff created by K.S.A. 19-813 and K.S.A. 19-812 and the Sedgwick County Courthouse Police pursuant to Resolution 29-2014.

In accordance with K.S.A. 19-813 and K.S.A. 19-812 and Resolution 29-2014, the Sedgwick County Sheriff and the Sedgwick County Courthouse Police are ordered to prohibit and prevent any person from carrying or possessing a knife or other weapon with a sharpened, edged or pointed blade and other dangerous items such as Conductive Energy Weapons, commonly referred to as 'stun guns' or similar device designed or intended to incapacitate by the introduction of an electrical pulse, and Aerosolized Chemical Irritants, commonly referred to as 'pepper spray, OC spray or mace', other respiratory irritants or lachrymatory substance within the Sedgwick County Courthouse and the Sedgwick County Juvenile Courthouse.

Knives, Conductive Energy Weapons and Aerosolized Chemical Irritants as described above (herein after referred to as "weapons and dangerous items") may be carried or possessed in the Sedgwick County Courthouses only as follows:

1. Sedgwick County Courthouse Police, Sedgwick County Sheriff's Deputies and other active duty commissioned law enforcement officers may possess or carry such weapons and dangerous items within the courthouses.
2. Any weapons and dangerous items intended for use as evidence may be possessed or carried in the courthouses and be brought into a courtroom with the prior consent of the assigned Judge in that division. Such weapons and dangerous items shall be at all times subject to control by the Sedgwick County Courthouse Police, the law enforcement officer bringing the weapons and dangerous items to the courtroom or the District Attorney or the assigned Assistant District Attorney. Such weapons and dangerous items shall be not provided to a jury except upon the consent of the assigned Judge.

This Order and its restrictions do not apply to Sedgwick County employees acting in compliance with county personnel policies or emergency medical first responders who are responding to a call within the courthouses while acting in the scope of their employment during what the Sedgwick County Courthouse Police or Sedgwick County Sheriff, in their sole and complete discretion, deem an emergency.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 16th day of January 2025.



HON. JEFFREY E. GOERING
Chief Judge of the 18th Judicial District