

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
ORDER NO. 1992

Amending Administrative Rule
26.2 concerning judicial officers
possessing weapons on court
premises.

IT IS ORDERED:

Administrative Rule 26.2 is amended to read as follows:

Rule 26.2. Court Security.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this rule, no person may possess a weapon on the premises of any court facility, or in the portion of any other building occupied by the court system, unless the weapon is to be used as evidence in a court proceeding. The term weapon includes firearms, knives, and chemical agents such as mace and pepper spray.

This prohibition does not apply to:

(1) a peace officer;

(2) a private uniformed security guard employed by a financial institution or private security service who is transporting money or other valuables;

(3) a private security guard under contract with the court system to provide security services within a court facility who possesses a weapon authorized under the contract;

~~(4) a judicial officer;~~

~~(4)~~⁽⁵⁾ a judicial officer~~person~~ who has written authorization from the administrative director to possess a weapon on court premises. This authorization will be given only upon a showing of good cause and only for a specified period of time. Written authorization is not required

for (a) small knives or multi-tools (like Swiss Army-type or Leatherman-type tools) provided that any knife blade may not exceed 4 inches in length, and (b) small chemical agent canisters for personal safety purposes;

(re-number subsequent paragraphs)

* * * *

(b) The exemptions listed in (a)(1)-(3) and ~~(a)(5)-(6)(a)(6)-(7)~~ apply only to persons acting within the scope and authority of their employment. A peace officer, private security guard, court system employee, or court system contractor who is participating in or attending a court proceeding outside the scope of his or her employment, whether as a party, witness, victim, or other interested person, is not permitted to bring a weapon onto court premises ~~unless authorized to do so under (a)(5).~~

(c) A judicial officer must comply with the requirements of this subsection and must notify and receive written authorization from the administrative director prior to bringing a handgun~~any firearm~~ into a court facility.

(1) Before a judicial officer may bring a handgun into the premises of any court facility, or in the portion of any other building occupied by the court system, the judicial officer must provide to the administrative director a certificate of successful completion of a handgun course as described in AS 18.65.715. A valid Alaska Concealed Handgun Permit issued by the Department of Public Safety will satisfy the requirement of a certificate. The certificate or Alaska Concealed Handgun Permit must be obtained within five years prior to the date of the judicial officer's notification to the administrative director that the officer intends to bring a handgun onto court system premises. The administrative director will issue a letter of approval to the judicial

officer unless there is good cause to withhold approval. The administrative director may withdraw approval to possess a handgun on court premises for good cause. The administrative director will inform the director of court security and the area court administrator in the judicial district where the judicial officer sits that the judicial officer has permission to have a handgun, and require that this information be kept confidential.

* * * *

DATED: October 5, 2022

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 5, 2022

/s/
Chief Justice Winfree

/s/
Justice Maassen

/s/
Justice Carney

/s/
Justice Borghesan

/s/
Justice Henderson