

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
ORDER NO. 2021

Amending Administrative Rule
26.2 to include certain Department
of Corrections officers as “peace
officers”.

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, who may possess on the premises of any court facility, or in the portion of any other building occupied by the court system: (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, except for kitchen knives and utensils for purposes of food preparation and service on court premises; (b) small chemical agent canisters for personal safety purposes; and (c) any other weapon upon receiving written authorization from the administrative director. Authorization to possess a weapon other than a handgun under (c) of this rule, will be given only upon a showing of good cause.

(5) court system employees, who may possess on the premises of any court facility, or in the portion of any other building occupied by the court system: (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, except for kitchen knives and utensils for purposes of food preparation and service on court premises; and (b) small chemical agent canisters for personal safety purposes; or

(6) court system facility construction contractors, who may possess on the premises of court facilities knives and knife-like tools that are necessary for their work.

For the purposes of this rule, a peace officer includes officers of the Department of Corrections who are qualified and authorized to carry a firearm in the performance of their official duties as indicated on their official Department of Corrections identification card, which must be presented upon entry into a court facility.

(b) The exemptions listed in (a)(1) - (3) and (a)(5) - (6) 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.

* * * *

DATED: September 16, 2026

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 16, 2026

/s/ _____
Chief Justice Carney

/s/ _____
Justice Borghesan

/s/ _____
Justice Henderson

/s/ _____
Justice Pate

/s/ _____
Justice Oravec