

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER GOVERNING POSSESSION OR DISPLAY
OF WEAPONS, FIREARMS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IN COURTHOUSES OR
JUDICIAL FACILITIES WITHIN ORANGE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Orange County are of primary concern to the Board of County Commissioners and this Court; and

WHEREAS, the tragic incident which occurred on January 10, 1984, in the Orange County Courthouse, resulting in serious injury and loss of life, illustrates that court proceedings may be fraught with extreme emotionalism and danger; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has appropriated funding for the purpose of improving the safety and security of those who conduct business within the Courthouse, including employees and citizens; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to ensure the safety and security of all persons within the Orange County Courthouses and judicial facilities, it is necessary to restrict the possession of weapons, firearms and hazardous materials permitted therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Belvin Perry, Jr., pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, under Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, do hereby order as follows, effective immediately:

1. The Orange County Courthouses and judicial facilities are designated as Secure Facilities.
2. Any civilian entering the Orange County Courthouses and judicial facilities shall be subject to search of his or her person, pockets, bags, briefcases, pocket books, purses, or other baggage-type items with the use of electronic or other specialized equipment. Any civilian who

refuses to submit to such search shall be denied access to the Orange County Courthouses and judicial facilities.

3. Any civilian possessing a weapon, firearm, or explosive or hazardous material of any kind shall be denied access to the courthouses and judicial facilities unless said weapon, firearm, explosive or hazardous material is surrendered to the proper authorities. If any illegal weapon, firearm, or explosive or hazardous material is discovered, the proper law enforcement officials or officers shall be immediately notified for appropriate action.

4. Possession or display of weapons or firearms shall be restricted to certified State law enforcement officers who produce identifying credentials, including the State Attorney and investigators employed by the State Attorney's Office, and all county and circuit judges, except as provided in paragraph five, below.

5. Any law enforcement officer who is not in uniform and on-duty and in possession of a firearm must keep the firearm concealed and secured at all times so that the firearm is not visible while in the courthouses. Any law enforcement officer who is in uniform and/or in possession of a weapon or firearm shall not be permitted to attend or participate in any court proceeding in which he or she is personally involved. Any law enforcement officer conducting personal, off-duty business within the courthouses shall not be permitted to be in possession of any weapon or firearm.

6. Administrative Orders 07-84-26 and 07-95-51-01 are amended and Administrative Orders 07-92-28 and 07-95-51-02 are vacated.

DONE AND ORDERED at Orlando, Florida this 16th day of July, 2007.

_____/s/_____
Belvin Perry, Jr.
Chief Judge

Copies provided to:

Clerk of Courts, Orange County
Clerk of Courts, Osceola County
Captain Patricia Storms, Court Security
General E-Mail Distribution List
<http://www.ninja9.org>