

April 10, 2025

Clerk, U.S. District Court
District of Montana
Missoula DivisionIN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANAIn re: Firearms Policy in the
Courthouses of the District of Montana

STANDING ORDER No. BMM-38

IT IS ORDERED that the following firearms policy shall control access by armed persons to the courthouses of the District of Montana. This order supersedes Standing Order DLC-14, which is hereby withdrawn.

1. **General Rule.** Except as otherwise provided herein, no person (including any local, state, or federal law enforcement officer) other than United States Marshals Service personnel, court security officers, federal judges, or law enforcement officers permanently stationed as tenants in the courthouse and otherwise authorized to carry firearms, shall carry a weapon in any court facility.
2. **Tenant Agencies.** United States Marshals Service personnel and court security officers are permitted, in the course of their official duties, to carry firearms in courthouses without limitation. Other law enforcement

personnel who are permanent tenants of the courthouse may carry a firearm directly to and from the agency office within that courthouse so long as the firearm is concealed; however, such personnel are expressly prohibited from carrying a firearm on any floor where a courtroom is located or into any judge's chambers.

3. **Access Without Screening Prohibited.** It shall be a violation of this Standing Order, punishable by contempt, for any resident employee of a tenant agency to allow any person, other than another resident employee of a tenant agency, to enter a courthouse without passing through security screening by the court security officers.
4. **Storage of Weapons.** Except as otherwise provided herein, all other full-time law enforcement agents authorized to carry firearms shall deposit any weapon with the court security officers to be stored in gun lockers at the screening post immediately upon entering the courthouse or at the United States Marshals Service gun lockers elsewhere in the courthouse.
5. **Exhibits.** This Standing Order shall not apply to weapons being produced as exhibits in a criminal or civil action. Any person bringing a weapon into the courthouse intended to be introduced as an exhibit shall present the weapon to the court security officer at the screening post immediately upon

entering the courthouse. The exhibit firearm shall be rendered secure prior to it being presented to the court security officer for inspection. No firearm may be taken into a courtroom as an exhibit unless it also has been presented to the United States Marshals Service for a safety check and a deputy marshal report to the clerk of court or a designee that the firearm has been made safe and unable to chamber or fire ammunition. Ammunition shall not, to the extent practicable, be maintained in a courtroom or presented to a witness in the same proximity as an exhibit firearm.

6. **Enforcement.** The United States Marshals Service is directed to enforce this Standing Order. In doing so, the Marshals shall provide a secure area at each court facility within the district for the safekeeping of firearms, ammunition and other weapons of other law enforcement officers who wish to enter any court facility of the District of Montana as provided in paragraph 3 above.
7. **Exception for Law Enforcement with Prior Approval.** With the prior approval of a federal judge, any law enforcement officer may be permitted to carry a firearm in a courthouse for special cause. Notice shall be provided to the United States Marshals Service and the clerk of the court of any exception allowed under this provision.

8. **Exception for Court Security Officers.** A court security officer reporting for duty, who is permitted under the law to carry a concealed firearm, may enter a courthouse carrying a personally owned concealed firearm. Any such firearms must be promptly secured in a weapons locker for the duration of the officer's shift. Court security officers are prohibited from carrying personally owned firearms while on duty.
9. **Emergencies.** This Standing Order shall not apply to law enforcement officers responding to an ongoing threat, incident, emergency situation, or call for assistance from within a courthouse.

DATED this 10th day of April, 2025.



Brian Morris, Chief Judge
United States District Court