

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING CONDUCT AND USE OF
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

February 2016

**(Supersedes previous Rules and Regulations
Governing the District of Columbia Courthouse)**

Regulations

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Regulation 1. Application.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), these regulations apply to all persons entering into or on District of Columbia Courts property.

(b) These regulations apply to property leased by the D.C. Courts to the extent they are consistent with the property rules and contractual terms governing the leased space.

(c) For purposes of these regulations, District of Columbia Courts property comprises the buildings and grounds under the custody and control of the D.C. Courts pursuant to D.C. Code § 11-1742(a), encompassing:

(1) The H. Carl Moultrie Courthouse, bounded by Indiana Avenue, N.W., 6th Street, N.W., C Street, N.W. and the Henry Daly Building at 300 Indiana Avenue, N.W, including the contiguous sidewalks and grounds,

(2) The Historic Courthouse of the Court of Appeals, and Buildings A, B, and C within United States Reservation 7 conveyed to the District of Columbia by Transfer of Jurisdiction on Feb. 6, 1970, S.O. 69-153 (File No. 10654) at Book 139, bounded by 4th and 5th Streets, N.W., and Indiana Avenue and F Street, N.W., including the contiguous sidewalks and grounds, but with the exception of the building housing the U.S. Court of Military Appeals (now the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces), and the property conveyed to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund pursuant to the Transfer of Jurisdiction from the District to the Department of Interior on January 14, 1994, S.O. 90-354 (File No. 7739) at Book 187, Page 79 (Memorial) and Pub. L. 106-492 (2000) (Museum), and

(3) Property leased by the District of Columbia Courts for the purpose of housing court operations.

(4) For purposes of these regulations, “contiguous sidewalks and grounds” include the sidewalks, plazas and unpaved areas within the grounds of D.C. Court buildings but do not include sidewalks on the perimeter of the grounds that are indistinguishable from other public sidewalks in the city.

(d) Posting requirement. These regulations shall be posted in a public place in each court building and shall be made reasonably available to the public in writing.

Regulation 2. Authority. Pursuant to the authority vested in the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration and the Executive Officer under D.C. Code §§ 11-1701(b)(9) and (d) and 11-1742(a), these regulations are promulgated for the protection of the D.C. Courts buildings and grounds and of individuals and property in the buildings and on the grounds, and for the maintenance of suitable order and decorum within the buildings and grounds.

Regulation 3. Admission to Property.

(a) Except for the purpose of filing papers or as otherwise permitted, Special Security Officers shall close the Court buildings to the public during other than normal working hours.

(b) Special Security Officers may close Court buildings to the public during working hours only when situations require this action to provide for the safety or security of persons or property, or for the orderly conduct of court business. The decision to close a court building shall be made only after consultation with or notice to the Executive Officer and the respective Chief Judge.

(c) When a Court building or a portion thereof is closed to the public, Special Security Officers shall restrict admission to the property, or the affected portion, to authorized persons who must register upon entry to the property and must, when requested, display government or other identifying credentials to Special Security Officers or other authorized individuals when entering, leaving or while on the property.

Regulation 4. Preservation of Property.

All persons entering in or on D.C. Courts property are prohibited from –

- (a) Improperly disposing of rubbish on property;
- (b) Willfully destroying or damaging property;
- (c) Stealing property;
- (d) Creating any hazard on property to persons or things; and
- (e) Throwing articles of any kind from or at a building or the climbing upon statues, fountains or any part of the buildings.

Regulation 5. Conforming with official signs and directions. Persons on D.C. Courts property must at all times comply with official signs of a prohibitory, regulatory or directory nature and with the lawful direction of the Chief Security Officer, United States Marshal, Special Security Officers and other authorized individuals.

Regulation 6. Items subject to inspection; prohibited items.

(a) The D.C. Courts may, at their discretion, inspect packages, briefcases and other containers in the immediate possession of visitors, employees or other persons arriving on, working at, visiting, or departing from D.C. Courts property.

(b) No person entering or while on D.C. Courts property may possess any firearms or other dangerous weapons (unless specifically authorized by law), knives, explosives, incendiary devices, items intended to be used to fabricate an explosive or incendiary device, dangerous liquids, illegal controlled substances, or illegal drug paraphernalia. Items such as letter openers,

scissors, screwdrivers, or any item that can be used as a weapon are also prohibited. Cameras and recording devices are allowed only as provided in Regulation 13. Any person who attempts to bring illegal items into a court building is subject to arrest and prosecution. Conviction carries penalties of fines, imprisonment, or both.

Regulation 7. Disturbances; demonstrations.

All persons entering in or on D.C. Courts property are prohibited from exhibiting conduct that –

- (a) Creates loud or unusual noise or a nuisance;
- (b) Unreasonably obstructs the usual use of entrances, foyers, lobbies, courtrooms, corridors, offices, elevators, stairways, or parking lots;
- (c) Otherwise impedes or disrupts the performance of official duties by government employees;
- (d) Prevents the general public from obtaining the services provided on the property in a timely manner; or
- (e) Constitutes a demonstration. The term “demonstration” includes demonstrations, picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding vigils or religious services and all other like forms of conduct that involve the communication or expression of views or grievances, engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which is reasonably likely to draw a crowd or onlookers. The term does not include casual use by visitors or tourists that is not reasonably likely to attract a crowd or onlookers.

Regulation 8. Gambling.

(a) Except for the vending or exchange of chances by licensed blind operators of vending facilities for any lottery set forth in a District of Columbia law and authorized by Section 2(a)(5) of the Randolph-Sheppard Act (20 U.S.C. § 107 et seq.), all persons entering in or on D.C. Courts property are prohibited from operating gambling devices; conducting a lottery or pool; or selling or purchasing numbers tickets.

(b) This provision is not intended to prohibit prize drawings for personal property at otherwise permitted functions on D.C. Courts property, provided that the game or drawing does not constitute gambling per se. Gambling per se means a game of chance where the participant risks something of value for the chance to gain or win a prize.

Regulation 9. Narcotics and Other Drugs. Except in cases where the drug is being used as prescribed for a patient by a licensed physician, or the drug or narcotic is lawfully transported into the courthouse to be used as evidence in a civil or criminal proceeding, all persons entering in or on D.C. Courts property are prohibited from –

(1) Being under the influence, using or possessing any narcotic drugs, hallucinogens, marijuana, barbiturates, or amphetamines; or

(2) Operating a motor vehicle on the property while under the influence of alcoholic beverages, narcotic drugs, hallucinogens, marijuana, barbiturates, or amphetamines.

Regulation 10. Alcoholic Beverages. In accordance with the Courts' Alcoholic Beverage Use Policy, except where the Chief Judge or the Executive Officer has granted an exemption for the use and consumption of alcoholic beverages, all persons entering in or on D.C. Courts property are prohibited from being under the influence of or consuming alcoholic beverages.

Regulation 11. Soliciting, Vending and Debt Collection. All persons entering in or on D.C. Court property are prohibited from soliciting and receipt of alms (including money and non-monetary items) or commercial or political donations, vending merchandise of all kinds, displaying or distributing commercial advertising, collecting signatures on petitions, polls or surveys or collecting private debts, except for national or local drives for funds for welfare, health or other purposes as authorized by the Executive Officer.

Regulation 12. Posting and Distributing Materials. All persons entering in or on D.C. Courts property are prohibited from –

(a) Posting or affixing materials, such as pamphlets, handbills, signs or flyers, on bulletin boards or elsewhere on D.C. Courts property, except as authorized in Regulation 11, or when these displays are conducted as part of authorized Court activities; and

(b) Distributing materials, such as pamphlets, handbills, signs or flyers, unless conducted as part of authorized Court activities, or as otherwise authorized by the Executive Officer or his or her designee.

Regulation 13. Photography, video-recording, and audio-recording.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) or (c) of this Regulation, or by official court reporters or court personnel in the performance of their official duties, the taking of photographs, video-recording, and audio-recording are prohibited within D.C. Courts buildings. Prohibited photography, video-recording, and audio-recording includes use of cellular telephones and other electronic devices, such as personal assistant devices or palm notepads with built-in features enabling the device to take photographs, or make audio- or video-recordings.

(b) The taking of photographs, video-recording, or audio-recording in any judicial chambers shall be permitted only with the knowledge and consent of the judicial officer in charge of such chambers and of the person or persons photographed. The taking of photographs, video-recording or audio-recording in any other office or courtroom shall be permitted only with the knowledge and consent of the official or person in charge of such office and of the person or persons photographed and with the authorization of the Executive Officer or the respective Chief Judge, or the designee of either.

(c) Courtroom security video recordings.

(1) Courtroom security video recordings may be made on a continuous and uninterrupted basis.

(2) The Chief Judge of the court in which the recording is made, or his or her designee, is vested with the authority to release a courtroom security video for security purposes only. Requests for release of courtroom security video shall be by motion to the Chief Judge.

(3) In the event of a security incident, immediate release of a courtroom security video recording for law enforcement purposes may be determined to be necessary by the Chief Security Officer of the District of Columbia Courts, or his or her designee, with the approval of the Chief Judge, if feasible. If approval of the Chief Judge has not been obtained, the Chief Judge must be notified of such release.

(4) Courtroom security video recordings are to be used solely for security purposes, and shall be treated as confidential except as provided herein.

(5) Court security cameras may not be used for audio recording.

Regulation 14. Dogs and Other Animals. No person may bring a dog or other animal into a D.C. Courts building for other than official purposes. However, a disabled person may bring a service animal assisting or being trained to assist that individual.

Regulation 15. Vehicular traffic. All vehicle drivers entering or while on D.C. Courts property –

(a) Must drive in a careful and safe manner at all times;

(b) Must comply with the signals and directions of Special Security Officers or other authorized individuals;

(c) Must comply with all posted traffic signs;

(d) Are prohibited from blocking entrances, driveways, walks, loading platforms, or fire hydrants; and

(f) Are prohibited from parking on D.C. Courts property without a permit. Parking without authority, parking in unauthorized locations or in locations reserved for other persons, or parking contrary to the direction of posted signs is prohibited. Vehicles parked in violation, where warning signs are posted, are subject to removal at the owner's risk and expense. The D.C. Courts may take as proof that a motor vehicle was parked in violation of these regulations or directives as prima facie evidence that the registered owner was responsible for the violation.

Regulation 16. Smoking. All persons are prohibited from smoking (including electronic-cigarettes) or using tobacco within D.C. Courts buildings.

Regulation 17. Impact on Other Laws or Regulations. Nothing in these regulations may be construed to nullify any Federal or District of Columbia laws or regulations applicable to any area in which the D.C. Courts is situated.

Regulation 18. Violation of regulations.

Conduct in violation of these regulations may subject the offender to removal and such penalties as are provided by law.