

FILED

DEC 19 2017

IN THE IOWA SUPREME COURT

CLERK SUPREME COURT

**In the Matter of
Courthouse Security**

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Supervisory Order

On June 19, 2017, the court issued a supervisory order prohibiting weapons in courtrooms, court-controlled spaces, and public areas of courthouses and other justice centers occupied by the court system. The supervisory order also authorized the chief judge of each judicial district in Iowa to implement the order by developing additional policies and procedures. This authority recognized that courthouse security in Iowa is an ongoing and shared responsibility with county boards of supervisors, county officials, and others and that the interests of these entities and individuals should be considered in developing courthouse policies and procedures.

Most courthouses in Iowa are multilevel buildings with designated areas for both court and county offices. Public areas in the courthouses, such as foyers, hallways, stairways, and elevators allow the public to access the court and county areas. The court system or county can occupy an entire floor of a courthouse, or they can share area on a floor of a courthouse. As such, different approaches exist to address and provide courthouse security.

After consultation with chief judges, county officials, sheriffs, and others, the court now supplements the supervisory order to clarify the authority of the chief judges to develop additional policies and procedures. Accordingly, the weapons prohibition supervisory order issued on June 19, 2017, shall remain in effect for every courthouse in Iowa. However, upon written request of a county board of supervisors, or other controlling entity, the chief judge shall modify the weapons prohibition imposed under the supervisory order by

eliminating the prohibition in public areas on those floors of a courthouse not totally occupied by the court system.

Upon such written application, the chief judge shall enter an order granting the modification. Upon entry of the order by the chief judge, the court system relinquishes to the requesting entity any authority over the regulation of weapons in the public areas on a floor of the courthouse not totally occupied by the court system.

The supervisory order is also supplemented to authorize chief judges, after consultation with the appropriate governing entity, to implement other policies and procedures consistent with the intent of the supervisory order to promote the safety of Iowans in courtrooms and court-controlled spaces and to minimize any adverse impact on Iowa's citizens.

For purposes of this order, a courthouse shall also include any building in which the court system occupies space and includes a law enforcement or justice center maintained by a county and/or a city in which the court system occupies space.

Dated this 19th day of December, 2017.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By Mark S. Cady
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice