

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT: COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO

DENVER COUNTY COURT

DENVER PROBATE COURT

DENVER JUVENILE COURT

JO # 19-1

▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲

July 17, 2019

JOINT ORDER REGARDING PROHIBITED CONDUCT IN COURT FACILITIES

In accordance with the inherent authority of the Second Judicial District, the Denver County Court, the Denver Probate Court, and the Denver Juvenile Court (collectively, “the Courts”) to manage their facilities, the Chief Judge of the Second Judicial District and the Presiding Judges of the Denver County Court, Probate Court, and Juvenile Court, jointly enter the following Order governing conduct inside all Court-related facilities located within the City and County of Denver, including, but not limited to: the Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse, the City and County Building, the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center, the Wellington Webb Building, and the Minoru Yasui Plaza (hereinafter “Court Facilities”).¹

The Courts have the responsibility and authority to ensure the efficient performance of judicial functions and to protect the dignity, independence, and integrity of the Courts. Specifically, the Courts must ensure that individuals who work in, transact business in, and visit the Courts’ Facilities are able to access the justice system freely, in a safe and orderly fashion, and unhindered by violence, abuse, threats, interference, intimidation, or harassment. The Courts also must provide a secure environment for all who enter and work in the Court Facilities. A secure and efficient environment are central to the public’s confidence in the integrity of the judicial system as well as the proper functioning of our three-branch system of government. To carry out their missions, the Courts must minimize activities that unreasonably disrupt or interfere with the orderly and peaceful conduct of court business. It is imperative that the Courts provide for the fair and orderly conduct of hearings and trials and maintain proper judicial decorum by ensuring neutral forums that are free from actual or perceived partiality, bias, prejudice, or favoritism. Accordingly, the Courts find that it is reasonably necessary and appropriate to impose certain restrictions on conduct in the Courts’ Facilities without regard to the content or viewpoint of any particular message, idea, or form of speech.

This Order applies to all areas of the Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse, the City and County

¹ This Order is issued consistent with the process in the Second Judicial District and the City and the County of Denver’s 2017 Memorandum of Understanding.

Building, the Van Cise-Simonet Detention Center, the Wellington Webb Building, and the Minoru Yasui Plaza in which court-related business is conducted. This Order does not apply to the portions of the City and County Building that are occupied and controlled exclusively by either the executive or the legislative branch of Denver City and County Government, namely: the Offices of the Mayor of Denver; City Council chamber; Council committee meeting rooms; and the Parr Widener Community Room so long as conduct in those areas does not interfere with or disrupt the business of the Courts.

This Order does not limit the authority of judicial officers to issue necessary and reasonable orders governing conduct and decorum in their courtrooms or in matters pending before them.

DISRUPTIVE, THREATENING, OR ABUSIVE CONDUCT PROHIBITED

All conduct in the Court Facilities must be consistent with the purpose and use of the Court Facilities, which is to house and support the Courts. The following conduct is specifically prohibited in the Court Facilities as inconsistent with the purpose and use of the Court Facilities:


Displaying signs or other materials; distributing literature or other materials; obstructing the passage of any other person; interrupting judicial proceedings; yelling or making other audible outbursts; using sound amplification; harassing, intimidating, or threatening Court personnel or others; or engaging in similar conduct that interferes with the ability of employees to carry out the business of the Courts or the ability of other persons to effectively access the Courts.


In addition to the responsibilities and authorities of the Courts outlined above, the Courts have the responsibility and authority to protect the public health within the Court Facilities. Therefore, **those entering the Court Facilities are required to be appropriately and fully clothed, including shoes.**


This Order shall be enforced by the Denver Sheriff's Department, Denver Police Department, and any other security staff or law enforcement officer as necessary and appropriate. This specifically includes enforcement of § 18-9-111 and § 18-9-117, C.R.S., and enforcement of orders in furtherance of the Courts' contempt authority under C.R.C.P. 107. All persons shall comply with the lawful requests, directions, and orders of law enforcement officers and security staff in the performance of their duties. Failure to do so will constitute a violation of this Order. This Order shall not preclude law enforcement officers or security staff from taking additional appropriate steps to ensure the orderly and peaceful conduct of court business at the Court Facilities.

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Entered this 17 day of July, 2019.


MICHAEL A. MARTINEZ
Chief Judge, Second Judicial District


THERESA A. SPAHN
Presiding Judge, Denver County Court


ELIZABETH D. LEITH
Presiding Judge, Denver Probate Court


D. BRETT WOODS
Presiding Judge, Denver Juvenile Court