

**IN THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT FOR
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2005-186
(Supersedes Administrative Order S-2002-046)**

COURTHOUSE SECURITY

WHEREAS the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Hillsborough County, Florida are of primary concern to this court; and

WHEREAS certain tragic incidents have occurred in court facilities throughout the nation and the State of Florida that resulted in serious injury and loss of life; and

WHEREAS certain court proceedings may result in extreme emotionalism and danger; and

WHEREAS article V, section 14(c) of the Florida Constitution and section 29.008, Florida Statutes, provide that counties shall be required to fund the cost of security of court facilities; and

WHEREAS Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.050 empowers the chief judge with the administrative supervision of the courts within this judicial circuit; it is therefore

ORDERED:

1. “Courthouse Facilities” Defined

For purposes of this administrative order, the term “courthouse facilities” means the Edgecomb Courthouse located at 800 East Twiggs Street, Tampa, Florida, 33602; the Courthouse South Annex located at 800 East Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida, 33602; the Courthouse North Annex located at 801 East Twiggs Street, Tampa, Florida,

33602; the building located at 700 East Twiggs Street, Tampa, Florida, 33602; the Plant City Courthouse Annex located at 302 North Michigan Street, Plant City, Florida 33566; the Traffic Court Complex (known as Floriland Business Center) located at 9309 North Florida Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33612; any other facility in which the court conducts official business; and parking for all such facilities.

2. Screening of Persons Entering Courthouse Facilities

All individuals, with the exception of members of the Federal and Florida judiciary, entering courthouse facilities through public access doors shall be subject to search, including search by use of electronic or other specialized equipment. Members of the Federal and Florida judiciary are authorized to bypass the security screening stations in all courthouse facilities. The state attorney, assistant state attorneys, public defender, and assistant public defenders are authorized to bypass the security screening station only in the building located at 700 East Twiggs Street.

3. Weapons Prohibited in Courthouse Facilities

Except as provided in sections four and five of this administrative order, all persons subject to search who possess any firearm, chemical weapon, destructive device, explosive device, sharp object, weapon or hazardous material of any kind shall be denied access to courthouse facilities unless the object is surrendered to the proper authorities. Unless a surrendered object is illegal or illegally possessed, it may be reclaimed by its owner upon exiting the courthouse facilities.

4. Law Enforcement Officers

Law enforcement officers, as defined in sections 790.001(8) and 112.531, Florida Statutes, who have proper identification and are conducting official agency business, are permitted to carry agency-authorized weapons into courthouse facilities. Law enforcement officers are not permitted to carry weapons into courthouse facilities when they are appearing as a litigant or witness in a personal matter, accompanying a friend or family member, conducting personal business, or conducting any business or activity other than official law enforcement business. Prior to appearing as a party or witness in a personal matter, accompanying a friend or relative, conducting personal business, or conducting any business or activity other than official law enforcement business, law enforcement officers may check in their weapons at the Sheriff's Court Services Bureau or with the county security officer at the entrance of the courthouse facilities. If an officer is in doubt about carrying a weapon into courthouse facilities, the officer should contact his or her supervisor or the Administrative Office of the Courts for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

Law enforcement officers include, but are not limited to, officers of the following government agencies:

- Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
- Hillsborough County Security Office
- Hillsborough County School Board Security
- Tampa Police Department
- Tampa Fire Department
- Temple Terrace Police Department
- Plant City Police Department
- Florida Highway Patrol
- Florida Marine Patrol

Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco
Florida State Attorneys and their respective assistants and investigators
Florida Public Defenders and their respective assistants and investigators
Seminole Indian Reservation Police
University of South Florida Police
University of Tampa Police
Hillsborough Community College Security
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Pasco County Sheriff's Office
Polk County Sheriff's Office
Manatee County Sheriff's Office
Tampa Aviation Authority
Tampa Port Authority
United States Marshal
United States Attorneys and their respective assistants and investigators
United States Federal Public Defenders and their assistants and investigators
United States Drug Enforcement Agency
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Central Intelligence Agency
United States Secret Service
United States Federal Probation
United States Customs Department
United States Border Patrol
United States Treasury Department Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
United States Military Police (all branches)
United States Coast Guard
Internal Revenue Service and their respective assistants and investigators.
All other officers or employees of the United States or the State of Florida or any agency, commission, department, board, division, municipality, or subdivision thereof, who have the authority to make arrests.

5. Armored Car Carrier Personnel

Armored car carrier personnel who have proper identification are permitted to carry weapons into courthouse facilities while conducting official armored car carrier business only if accompanied by a courthouse security officer. Official armored car

carrier business means the transportation of any money, treasure, bullion, bonds or other thing of value to and from the offices of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Armored car carrier personnel are not permitted to carry weapons into courthouse facilities when they are appearing as a litigant or witness in a personal matter, accompanying a friend or family member, conducting personal business, or conducting any business or activity other than official armored car carrier business. Prior to appearing as a party or witness in a personal matter, accompanying a friend or relative, conducting personal business or conducting any business or activity other than official armored car carrier business, armored car carrier personnel may check in their weapons at the Sheriff's Court Services Bureau or with the county security officer at the entrance of the courthouse facilities. If a person employed by an armored car carrier is in doubt about carrying a weapon into courthouse facilities, the person should contact his or her supervisor or the Administrative Office of the Courts for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

6. Concealed Weapons in Courtrooms

Nothing in this order precludes a judge from carrying a concealed weapon or firearm or from determining who will carry a concealed weapon or firearm in the judge's courtroom, as provided in section 790.06(12), Florida Statutes.

7. Illegal Weapons

If any illegal weapons, explosives, hazardous materials, or contraband are discovered, the proper law enforcement officials or officers shall be immediately notified for appropriate action.

8. Courthouse Access Conditioned Upon Search

Anyone subject to search who refuses to submit to a search of his or her person or his or her bags, briefcases, pocketbooks, baggage, or other similar items shall be denied access to the courthouse facilities.

9. Security Plan

The Administrative Office of the Courts for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit shall maintain a plan consisting of policies and procedures for scanning and admitting incoming mail and packages, for admitting private service contractors working within courthouse facilities, for inspecting and admitting portable electric and electronic devices, including cameras and computing devices, and for managing any other issues relating to courthouse security.

10. Previous Administrative Order Superseded

Administrative Order S-2002-046 is hereby superseded.

11. Effective Date

This administrative order is effective immediately.

DONE AND ORDERED in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, this 19th day of October, 2005.

 /s/ Manuel Menendez, Jr.
Manuel Menendez, Jr., Chief Judge

Administrative Order S-2005-186

original to: Pat Frank, Clerk of the Circuit Court
copies to: All Judges
Michael L. Bridenback, Court Administrator
Mark A. Ober, State Attorney
Julianne Holt, Public Defender
David Gee, Sheriff
Steven Hogue, Chief of Police-Tampa
Bill McDaniel, Chief of Police-Plant City
Tony Velong, Chief of Police-Temple Terrace
Hillsborough County Bar Association
Pat Bean, County Administrator
Renee Lee, County Attorney
Board of County Commissioners
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office - Court Services Bureau
Legislative Delegation
Scott Dunlap, Director-Security Services Dept.
Don Harwig, Director-Facilities Management
All Court Programs
Hillsborough County School Board Security
Tampa Fire Department
Florida Highway Patrol Officers
Florida Marine Patrol Officers
Florida Department of Law Enforcement Officers
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Officers
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco
Seminole Indian Reservation Police
University of South Florida Police
University of Tampa Police
Hillsborough Community College Security
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Pasco County Sheriff's Office
Polk County Sheriff's Office
Manatee County Sheriff's Office
Tampa Aviation Authority
Tampa Port Authority