

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2026-047
(Supersedes Administrative Order S-2005-186)**

COURTHOUSE SECURITY

The security of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's courthouse facilities is funded by Hillsborough County pursuant to article V, section 14(c) of the Florida Constitution and Florida Statutes section 29.008, and is provided through the Sheriff of Hillsborough County in coordination with the Chief Judge under Florida Statutes section 30.15.

The state-wide increase in threats and acts of violence directed toward judges, jurors, witnesses, litigants, attorneys, court personnel, and members of the public, as well as the evolving nature of those threats, require the continuing need for comprehensive, current, and uniformly applied security measures at every courthouse facility in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

In light of newly created courtrooms in the Pat Collier Frank Courthouse, it is necessary for the proper administration of justice within this circuit to update the Circuit's security policies. By the power vested in the chief judge under article V, section 2(d), Florida Constitution; Florida Statutes section 43.26; and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2), it is 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 Pat Collier Frank Courthouse located at 419 North Pierce 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; 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 in the building located at 700 East Twiggs Street. The state attorney and assistant state attorneys are authorized to bypass the security screening station at the Pat Collier Frank Courthouse. The Sheriff is authorized to implement any further lawful measures regarding the screening of individuals entering a courthouse facility if, in the Sheriff's professional judgment, such steps are needed to uphold the safety and security of all persons within the premises.

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 Officer

Law enforcement officers, as defined in Florida Statutes sections 790.001(12) and 112.531, 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 Sheriffs Court Services Bureau or with the county security officer at the entrance of the courthouse facility. If an officer is in doubt about carrying a weapon into a courthouse facility, the officer should contact his or her supervisor or the Administrative Office of the Courts for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

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 facility. If a person employed by an armored car carrier is in doubt about carrying a weapon into a courthouse facility, 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 Florida Statutes section 790.06(12).

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-2005-186 is hereby superseded.

11. Effective Date

This administrative order is effective September 22, 2026.

ENTERED on August 19th, 2026.



Christopher C. Sabella, Chief Judge

Original: Victor Crist, Clerk of the Circuit Court
Copy: All Judges
Robert Snyder, Trial Court Administrator
Chad Chronister, Hillsborough County Sheriff
Susan Lopez, State Attorney
Lisa McLean, Public Defender
Brett Owen, Chief of Police, Tampa
Richard Mills, Jr., Chief of Police, Plant City
Robert Staley, Chief of Police, Temple Terrace
Christopher L. Daniel, Chief of Police, University of South Florida
Charlie Vazquez, Chief of Police, Tampa International Airport
Bonnie M. Wise, County Administrator
Julia Mandell, County Attorney
Hillsborough County Bar Association