

EXECUTIVE ORDER
Revised Policy Prohibiting Weapons in Courthouses

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Rhode Island General Laws §§ 8-15-2 and 8-15-4, I hereby amend Executive Order 2003-06 issued on November 14, 2003 and effective on November 24, 2003, by adding a provision that would include a taser as a weapon, and would clarify those persons permitted to secure weapons. The policy shall now read in its entirety:

1. No person shall carry, transport, or possess any weapon or firearms in any of the court facilities of the unified judicial system, whether or not that person is a law enforcement officer. The term “weapon” means any instrument used for the purpose of killing, injuring or maiming a person, including a taser, firearm, incendiary device or explosive substance, knife or other sharp-edged, knife-like weapon designed to cut or stab another, and shall include any instrument or weapon as defined by G.L. § 11-47-42.

2. All persons including peace officers, law enforcement officers, and attorneys or other persons possessing a valid, current permit to carry a concealed weapon or authorized to carry or operate a taser, shall secure their weapon(s) at designated locker areas located at specific courthouse entrances, and shall enter their identifying information into the weapons log for each weapon checked.

3. Persons who hold a valid, current permit to carry a concealed weapon must provide proof of the permit to security personnel prior to securing their weapon, must surrender the locker key to security personnel and pass through all screening prior to entering the facility.

4. Any person who is not a member of law enforcement or a peace officer and/or who does not hold a valid, current permit or authorization to carry a concealed weapon or authorization to carry or operate a taser will not be permitted to enter the facility with such weapon or secure it.

5. In the event a law enforcement agency seeks to have a member of the agency carry his or her service weapon in the interior of one of the state courthouses, said request must be made in writing, time permitting, and must demonstrate a substantial need based on exigent and compelling circumstances that endanger the safety of courthouse occupants which justify an exception to this policy for a specific and finite period of time or for a specific event. Any such request shall be forwarded to and approved by the State Court Administrator, or his or her designee, and where applicable, the judge presiding over the case before whom the law enforcement officer is to appear.

6. This Executive Order applies to all peace officers and law enforcement officers except on-duty Capitol Police officers, on-duty sheriffs on perimeter patrol of the respective

