

## Security: Firearms in the Courthouse

Law enforcement officers attending court on official police business are permitted to wear their service weapons while in the New Castle County Courthouse:

- Non uniformed law enforcement officers on official business will be required to prominently display identification badges supplied by the Capitol Police;
- Law enforcement officers attending court on personal business, even if also attending court on official business, are required to notify Capitol Police that they are on personal business and surrender their weapons to the Capitol Police.
- Probation and Parole Officers in the Safe Streets Program attending court scheduled after normal court hours are permitted to carry firearms when in their official uniform.
- Court Security Officers as designated by the Chief or Resident Judge of a Court, by a written order, may carry firearms:
  - All current orders of the court shall be, in each instance, filed on or before January 1 of each year, with the Capitol Police along with all current certifications of training in the use of deadly force.
- Correctional Officers attending court for the purpose of transporting inmates are permitted to wear their service weapons in the New Castle County Courthouse:
  - When not performing the immediate and direct handling of prisoners
  - When two or more Correctional Officers are handling a prisoner and one officer is positioned during the transport process at a safe distance from the prisoner so that the prisoner can not gain access to the weapon.

Weapons possession by all other persons is prohibited.

Note: This policy replaces all previous policies related to weapons possession by law enforcement including those approved on

- May 29, 2002
- July 24, 2002
- August 14, 2004

COPC Approved: October 20, 2005