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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COLUMBIA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

**STATEMENT OF COURT POLICY REGARDING VISITOR RULES AND
GUIDELINES**

The Courthouse, Courtrooms, and grounds of the Columbia County Judicial Center exist for the purpose of conducting the judicial business of the public in a dignified, orderly, and professional manner. Court facilities provide a location in which judicial officers, court officers and officials, and other participants in the legal process can resolve civil and criminal disputes in an atmosphere of reverence and respect for the rule of law. This Court Policy is designed to maintain the dignity of all courthouse facilities and the integrity of the legal process taking place therein. Behavior, conditions, or attire not conducive to the dignified and orderly operation of official court business are hereby prohibited. All Court proceedings except those before the Grand Jury or otherwise sealed shall be and remain open to the public. This Order shall be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court in November of 2025, however, this Order shall be effective as of January 1, 2026.

GENERAL ORDER

Upon the foregoing, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that all non-personnel entering the Columbia County Judicial Center are prohibited from bringing the following items:

1. Weapons of any kind;
2. Food, beverages, chewing gum and tobacco; and
3. Clothing with visual or written messages referring to: drugs or alcohol; violence; vulgar or obscene language or images; gang affiliation; insults to another race, religion, gender, or ethnicity; and attempts to display messages related to a pending case.

Upon the foregoing, **IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED** that non-personnel entering the Columbia County Judicial Center are able to bring service animals, however, emotional support animals are not allowed on the premises.

Upon the foregoing, **IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED** that non-personnel entering the Columbia County Judicial Center are prohibited from bringing any and all recording devices. Recording devices are specifically prohibited from the second floor of the courthouse and inside the courtrooms, unless an individual has applied for a Uniform Superior Court Rule 22 Order and that order has been received, reviewed, and approved by signature by a Superior Court Judge.

Upon the foregoing, **IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED** that the use of cell phones is not allowed in the courtroom. Your cell phone or pager must be turned off before entering so that you do not disrupt the court. Attorneys and other court personnel must place their phones on silent/vibrate mode.

Upon the foregoing, **IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED** that all non-personnel entering the Courthouse must walk through a security checkpoint including a scan of your personal items, a walk through a metal detector, and a wand of your person by a deputy to check for prohibited items. You should allow the officer to search any bags, packages, or personal belongings that will be taken into the courtroom. If you refuse to cooperate, you may be denied entry to the Courthouse.

Upon the foregoing, **IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED** that all non-personnel entering the Columbia County Judicial Center shall adhere to the General Guidelines and Prohibitions posted on the Columbia County Website with regard to appearance and attire. If you are not dressed properly, you may be asked to leave the court and return at a later date. This will delay your hearing and require you to appear in court more than once.

Upon the foregoing, **IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED** that the courtroom is a place of order and structure. Attempts to disrupt or actual disruptions in the courtroom could result in your being held in contempt (which could include jail time and/or a fine, or both).

Persons who are incapable of complying with said Order because of religious reasons, indigence, or some mental or physical impairment may be granted an exemption from this Policy upon a satisfactory showing to a presiding judicial officer. Should a Court Security Officer or Judge deem it appropriate to relax any standard herein within the confines of areas of his or her control, reasonable accommodation may be made for good cause shown.

This Order shall be served upon the Deputies of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office and Columbia County Marshalls and filed in the minutes of each division of the Columbia County Clerk's Office, including Probate Court, Magistrate Court, and Superior Court.

These procedures have been adopted by the undersigned Judges of the Columbia Judicial Circuit
as of this 20th day of November, 2025.


SHERYL B. JOLLY
J.S.C.C.J.C.


BARRY A. FLEMING
J.S.C.C.J.C.


J. GRADY BLANCHARD
J.S.C.C.J.C.