



1           WHEREAS, the Court is committed to ensuring that Court operations are  
2 conducted safely, transparently, without undue interruption or interference, and with  
3 no impediment to open public access; and

4           WHEREAS, the Court having considered the foregoing and being sufficiently  
5 advised, Chief Justice David K. Thomson, Justice Michael E. Vigil, Justice C.  
6 Shannon Bacon, Justice Julie J. Vargas, and Justice Briana H. Zamora concurring;

7           NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the policy set forth in Exhibit A  
8 to this Order shall apply to all courthouses and buildings owned or occupied by the  
9 New Mexico Judicial Branch **effective November 17, 2025**; and

10          IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the requirements of the policy set forth in  
11 this order, including Exhibit A, may be enforced by the contempt powers of each  
court subject to this policy.

12          IT IS SO ORDERED.



WITNESS, the Honorable David K. Thomson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of said Court this 14th day of November, 2025.

  
Elizabeth A. Garcia, Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court  
of the State of New Mexico

I CERTIFY AND ATTEST:  
A true copy was served on all parties  
or their counsel of record on date filed.  
Kristen Edwards  
Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court  
of the State of New Mexico

**Exhibit A**

**COURTHOUSE ACCESS POLICY**

**APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to all courthouses and any other building owned or occupied by the New Mexico Judicial Branch.

In order to maintain an open and safe environment in which parties, witnesses, jurors, staff, and others can participate in court proceedings and conduct business in a manner that is free of harassment or threats to their security or freedom, the Court issues the following required procedures:

**DEFINITIONS**

“Administrative Authority” means the individual or designee with the primary responsibility to supervise and coordinate the administration of a judicial entity or as designated by the Chief Judge and approved by the Supreme Court Order.

“Courthouse” means any building owned or occupied by the New Mexico Judicial Branch for the administration of justice.

“On-Site Law Enforcement Officer” means a New Mexico licensed law enforcement officer whose agency is statutorily or contractually required to provide security to a Courthouse when the officer is in the actual performance of security duties at a Courthouse.

“Outside Law Enforcement Officer” means any other law enforcement officer, whether local, state, tribal, or federal.

“Weapon” means any deadly weapon as defined by NMSA 1978, Section 30-1-12, and also includes any knife, mace, pepper spray, or other caustic chemicals.

**COURTHOUSE ACCESS**

Everyone who enters the Courthouse is subject to security screening. Screening may include but is not limited to (1) both person and belongings going through a magnetometer, x-ray or other scanning device, (2) a physical pat down, (3) scanning with a metal detecting wand and/or (4) temporary removal of face coverings, hats, sunglasses, or other facial obstructions at the time of the screening.

**REMOTE ACCESS TO COURTHOUSES**

Courts shall continue to follow [Supreme Court Order 23-8500-013](#) regarding remote appearance of parties and witnesses.

## **LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES**

In the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, District, Metropolitan, Magistrate, Municipal and Probate courts interpretation, translation, scribing, remote appearance and other language and ADA access services shall continue to be provided as required by law at no cost in all courtroom proceedings as well as all interactions with court staff and judicial officers that take place outside the courtroom to the public, court customers, witnesses, jurors and other parties who need such assistance.

It is the responsibility of the attorney or party to provide qualified interpretation and translation services for witness interviews, pre-trial transcriptions and translations, and attorney/client communications during proceedings. Courts' responsibility for interpreters is addressed in Rules 1-103, 2-113, 3-113, 5-122, 6-115, 7-114, and 8-113 NMRA.

## **COURTHOUSE ACCESS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

All on-duty Outside Law Enforcement Officers shall identify themselves to On-Site Law Enforcement when entering a Courthouse by presenting their agency's badge and official credentials immediately upon entry.

## **PROHIBITION OF WEAPONS**

No firearms or other weapons shall be brought into a Courthouse, except weapons used by the Court's On-Site Law Enforcement Officers. On duty, New Mexico-certified law enforcement officers may carry firearms within a courthouse. No law enforcement officer may carry a firearm or any other weapon when they are within a courthouse as a party to a case.

## **COURTHOUSE ARRESTS**

To protect access to justice and ensure the orderly conduct of court business, any arrest or detention within a Courthouse shall be conducted in a manner that does not interfere with court proceedings.

## **PROHIBITION OF AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDING**

As part of the Court's efforts to provide a calm, safe, and secure environment for all, and to provide for the fair, impartial, and efficient administration of justice with the dignity and decorum befitting a court, all photography, video or audio recording anywhere in a Courthouse is prohibited except as may be approved by the Chief Judge or presiding judge under Rules 23-107 and 23-109 NMRA.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Courts may prohibit unauthorized persons from bringing electronic devices into the Courthouse. Any device that is capable of recording audio or video or taking photos, or any other communication or scanning devices (collectively "Electronic Devices") including but not limited to cell phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches. This is not an exhaustive list of items that may be prohibited. The Administrative Authority of a Court may issue its own administrative policy on electronic devices consistent with this paragraph.

The Court prohibits unauthorized photography or video recording of any type by all persons in the Courthouse. In addition to possible punishment for contempt of court, unauthorized photography, video or audio recording will result in the revocation of the authorization to bring electronic devices into the courthouse and may result in the individual's removal from the courthouse.