

WEBER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		POLICY AND PROCEDURES	
SUBJECT: Weapons in the Courthouse		CHAPTER/SECTION NO.: 49.3	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/7/03		REVIEW DATE:	
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: See attached sheet		APPROVED: <u>** See Master File</u> Sheriff	
STANDARD NUMBER: 73.3.1			

### 49.3 Policy

- 49.3.1 Unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge, all officers of the Sheriff's Office will be armed while in any court on official business.
- 49.3.2 In courts that are secure facilities, a peace officer must present photo identification to court officers or deputies when entering the building.
- 49.3.3 When in uniform, the peace officer must have a holster with two points of retention. When in civilian attire, a minimum one point retention holster is required.
- 49.3.4 The officer may be required to sign a register certifying that he/she is a peace officer.
- 49.3.5 If any of the above requirements are not met, the peace officer will be required to check the firearm in a secure locker at the point of entry. If no lockers are provided, the officer will follow the direction of the attending court officer for storage of the firearm.
- 49.3.6 Any persons authorized to possess a weapon in the courtroom, as provided above, are to position themselves on the perimeter of the courtroom in such a manner that no one can get behind them and attempt to take their weapon.

49.3.7 A peace officer entering the court as a litigant or witness or on any personal matter may not carry a firearm in the courthouse unless authorized by the presiding judicial authority.

49.3.8 Weapons security in court

- A. Should the judge order an officer to be unarmed in court, the officer will coordinate security for the firearms with the court clerk or court officer. If a lockbox system is in place for weapons, the officer will utilize that storage. If a lockbox is not provided, the officer will follow the directions of the attending court officer for storage of the firearm.
- B. Persons holding a concealed weapons permit will not be allowed to bring their weapon into the court building. Such persons will be advised to secure their weapon in their vehicle or other secure place of their choice outside the court building.

49.3.9 Backpacks

- A. Backpacks are prohibited from the court building because of their disruptive capabilities. Backpacks are usually too big to be conveniently stored under courtroom seats, may contain numerous items that may be used as weapons, can easily conceal dangerous weapons, may be used as a weapon, and if left unattended may become a "suspicious package" that can disrupt the ordinary conduct of business while it is being dealt with.