



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: FIREARMS-COURTHOUSE AND COURTROOM		NO: G-710	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
REFERENCE: Superior Court Order #5.7-254 (Fifth Amended Order) Penal Code Section 171(b)			
EFFECTIVE: August 1, 1990	REVIEWED: 11/10/2017	REVISED: 10/07/2004	UPDATED: 11/12/2007

POLICY

Possession of firearms while off duty and on personal business in the courthouse, courtrooms, or at the Kern County Department of Child Support Services is prohibited. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for security in the described facilities and believes it is necessary to avoid the presence of firearms in those facilities by persons there on personal business. It is also directed at the improper influence that may result from the wearing of a uniform while on personal, court-related business. Nothing set forth in this policy shall abridge the authority of a Judge, Commissioner, or Referee presiding in any courtroom to further restrict or allow the possession of a weapon in his/her courtroom.

On-duty, sworn law enforcement personnel of the Kern County Sheriff's Office, who are testifying or conducting official Sheriff's Office business in the various courthouses, courtrooms, or at facilities of the Kern County Department of Child Support Services will be allowed to carry weapons into those buildings only as follows:

- While in uniform and in possession of a valid Sheriff's Identification Card (Ref. K-400); or
- While in plain clothes and wearing in a clearly visible location their Sheriff's Office picture identification card and/or badge; or
- When the weapon(s) are to be used as evidence in court.

DIRECTIVE 1:

No member of the Sheriff's Office shall wear their uniform while appearing in any judicial proceeding in a personal capacity or conducting any personal business associated with any off duty, personal family law or civil matters in the described facilities. This does not apply to civil matters arising out of the member's employment with the Sheriff's Office.

DIRECTIVE 2:

On duty plain clothes deputies, or deputies working in an undercover capacity, have the option of wearing the appropriate identification visibly displayed, or securely storing their weapons prior to entering the courthouse.