

VIRGINIA:

In the Circuit Court for the Counties of Brunswick, Greenville, Prince George, Surry, Sussex, and the Cities of Emporia and Hopewell

ORDER

The Chief Judge, sharing statutory authority over courthouse security with the various Sheriffs, and having inherent authority to maintain order and decorum in the courthouses of this circuit, does

UPON CONSIDERATION THEREOF, and after consulting the various judges of the circuit, district, and juvenile and domestic relations district courts, find that appropriate entry requirements to courthouse facilities are necessary to (1) maintain the dignity and solemnity of judicial proceedings, (2) promote respect for the judicial process, (3) prevent disruption of court business, and (4) ensure courthouse security and safety; it is therefore

ADJUDGED, ORDERED, AND DECREED that members of the public are **PROHIBITED** from entering any courthouse with food or drinks; with knives, pocketknives, scissors, or other sharp objects; with firearms, tools, or the like; with mace, pepper spray, objects, liquids, or aerosols that could be used as a weapon; with video equipment, cameras, televisions, radios, pagers, smart watches, or cell phones.

Members of the public are **PERMITTED** to enter any courthouse with cell phones intended to be used for the presentation of evidence in any case, but such cell phones shall be turned off and held by the Sheriff's Department according to each Sheriff's security procedures, and delivered to the courtroom where the presentation of evidence is taking place by the Sheriff or his deputies; it is further

ADJUDGED, ORDERED, AND DECREED that members of the public, officers of the court, and other court staff entering, or remaining within, any courthouse shall comply with dress code requirements.

The following attire is **PROHIBITED**: **athletic apparel**, including sweatsuits, jogging suits, and gym wear; **shorts** or skorts of any kind, regardless of length, material, or style; **revealing or inappropriate clothing** that exposes undergarments, intimate body parts, or areas not typically revealed in business attire—such as midriff tops, tube tops, tank tops, sheer,

see-through, or excessively tight garments; garments containing profane, obscene, **vulgar**, discriminatory, or inflammatory **language** or **imagery**; clothing or accessories that pose security risks, including those with **excessive metal components** that may interfere with security screening; and **headwear** that **obscures** the face, such as bonnets or hooded garments—except for religious head coverings, which remain subject to search in accordance with security protocols.

The following attire is PERMITTED: clothing that appropriately covers the **upper body**, including but not limited to shirts, blouses, or other garments that fully cover the torso; appropriate **lower-body** attire, including pants, jeans, or skirts and dresses that extend to at least the knee when standing; and **footwear** which must be appropriate to the setting and worn at all times; it is further

ADJUDGED, ORDERED, AND DECREED that the Sheriffs are to acquire, if necessary, new signage which accurately reflects this Order and to have such signage posted outside their courthouses; it is further

ADJUDGED, ORDERED, AND DECREED that the Sheriffs and their deputies shall deny courthouse entry to members of the public, officers of the court, and other court staff not in compliance with the specific requirements set forth herein, and not upon any other subjective judgment of appropriateness; that individuals denied entry may seek appropriate attire and return for admission; and, finally, that any violation of this Order shall be considered summary contempt; it is further

ADJUDGED, ORDERED, AND DECREED that the Clerk of Court shall disseminate a copy of this Order to his or her respective District Court Clerk and Sheriff.

ENTERED this 23 day of January, 2026.



W. Edward Tomko III, Chief Judge