



Office of
THE COURT EXECUTIVE
Superior Court of the State of California
County of Kings

TODD H. BARTON
Clerk of Court
and
Jury Commissioner

JEFF LEWIS
Chief Deputy Court
Executive Officer
and Assistant Jury
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 6, 2009
To: Distribution List
From: Todd H. Barton, Court Executive Officer 
Subject: Reminder - Security Screening and Identification Badges

In September 2007, Security Screening Stations were implemented in all Court locations in Hanford, Lemoore, Corcoran and Avenal to ensure that a safer and more secure environment was created for Judicial Officers, Court staff, and visitors conducting business in our buildings. Those stations continue to be staffed with uniformed and trained security personnel who are authorized to perform the necessary screening functions upon every visitor entering our Court facilities.

The Local Rules for the Superior Court, as adopted by the Judicial Officers of the Kings County bench, govern all proceedings and are designed to promote the efficient conduct of judicial business, including Court Security. Specifically, Local Rule 104 [Subsection D.] states that

"All persons entering the Court or Family Services Division will be subject to search.
No weapons are allowed within any Court facility. (Eff. 1/1/99; as amended, eff. 7/1/08)."

This Local Rule and relevant case law provides the authority to require all persons to abide by these Court security measures.

As conveyed in a memo dated September 11, 2007, attorneys who frequently visit Court buildings, were given the opportunity to obtain a Court ID badge which, when presented to security personnel, allowed passage through security screening with minimal delay.

Other frequent visitors, such as law enforcement officers and employees from Kings County and other state or federal agencies, have been given the courtesy of presenting their employment picture ID badges to security personnel so as to also pass through screening without much delay.

These identification requirements of the Kings County Superior Court are consistent with the requirements of other Courts in the State of California, and adherence to these minimum requirements will be maintained. [Of note, Malcolm Franklin, Senior Manager of the Office of Emergency Response and Security of the Administrative Office of the Courts remains adamant in his recommendation that all Courts in California should require everyone to pass through security screening regardless of affiliation. He added that the removal of belts has also become a routine practice during screening in many Courts, although this practice is not presently enforced in our Court.]

Although presenting ID badges has seemed a reasonable process to expedite entry, in recent weeks a growing number of individuals have not complied with the requirement to present their ID to security personnel. Some have avoided screening entirely by walking through the stations [discounting the screening officers' presence] or simply bypassing the security barriers. **Please take notice that security staff will not accept a "familiar face" as sufficient identification for the privilege to not have your person or property subjected to weapons screening.** If any person does not possess required official business identification, they *will* pass through the screening station in the same manner as the public.

Individuals who disregard a security officer's request for the presentation of Court, County or other agency employer ID badges, and/or who deliberately bypass the security screening process, will be subject to appropriate action by the Kings County Sheriff's Department (the agency to which Judicial Officers of this Court have granted full authority and responsibility for enforcement of the Court's Local Rules).

Such further action may include an individual being instructed by a Deputy Sheriff Bailiff to produce proper identification or to immediately leave a courtroom and properly re-enter through the security screening station. **Failure to comply or follow the Deputy Sheriff's directive may even result in action pursuant to Penal Code section 148(a)(1) -Obstructing/Delaying a Peace Officer in the Performance of his Duty.**

The bottom line is that your safety and security is our priority. Screening provides the first line of defense toward meeting that goal. With your full cooperation, I am confident we can continue to refine and enhance our security measures, and achieve that vital, daily objective of protecting every individual who works in or visits our Court.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (559) 582-1010, ext. 5002.

If you wish to purchase a Court approved ID badge, please contact Nancy Rizo at (559) 582-1010, ext. 5003 or Hope Hernandez at ext. 5002.

THB/mmn