

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF BUCKS
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 90

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR RULES AND REGULATIONS
GOVERNING THE POSSESSION OF WEAPONS IN THE BUCKS
COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS BUILDING

NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted and ordained pursuant to 16 P.S. § 3508 (b) (1977) by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Bucks, Pennsylvania as follows:

Section 1. TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the "Bucks County Domestic Relations Building Weapons Ordinance".

Section 2. DEFINITIONS

Except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms as used in this Ordinance shall have the following meanings:

A. The term "Bucks County Domestic Relations Building" shall mean the Domestic Relations Building located at 30 E. Court Street, Doylestown, County of Bucks, Pennsylvania.

B. The term "Weapon" shall mean any firearm, knife, pocket knife, pepper spray, mace or such other items declared as weapons by the Bucks County Board of Commissioners.

C. The term "Courthouse Security Officers" shall mean the officers or watchmen appointed by the Bucks County Commissioners under 16 P.S. § 5526 (1953) to guard and protect the county buildings and to enforce the provisions of the Second Class County Code and other laws relating thereto.

Section 3. WEAPONS PROHIBITED

No person shall:

A. Possess or carry a weapon in the Bucks County Domestic Relations Building at any time.

Section 4. WEAPONS SCREENING AUTHORIZED

No person shall:

A. Refuse to comply with the weapons screening procedure at any and all entrances to the Bucks County Domestic Relations Building.

Section 5. ENFORCEMENT

A. Enforcement of this Ordinance shall be the responsibility of the Bucks County Courthouse Security Department. Courthouse Security Officers shall have the authority to search all persons entering the building at any time and implement a weapons screening procedure through the use of magnetometers installed at any Domestic Relations Building entrance. Courthouse Security Officers shall be permitted to remove all weapons from persons entering the Bucks County Domestic Relations building.

B. Any person whose weapon (s) is removed under the authority of this Ordinance shall be permitted to reclaim the weapon (s) upon exiting the Bucks County Domestic Relations Building.

Section 6. PENALTIES

A. Any person found to be in possession of an illegal weapon in the Bucks County Domestic Relations Building shall, upon conviction thereof, before a District Justice in Bucks County in a Summary Proceeding be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than One Hundred Dollars \$100.00 and/or to undergo imprisonment for a term of not more than thirty days.

B. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall, for every such offense, upon conviction thereof before a District Justice in Bucks County in a summary proceeding be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than One Hundred Dollars \$100.00 and/or to undergo imprisonment for a term of not more than thirty days.

Section 7. EXEMPTIONS AND NON-EXEMPTIONS

A. This Ordinance shall not apply to the Bucks County Sheriff and Deputy Sheriffs and Courthouse Security Officers on duty.

B. This Ordinance shall apply to all law enforcement officers and individuals possessing a valid permit to carry a firearm. Weapons removed from such individuals will be stored in the firearm lock box located at any one of the Security areas.

Section 8. EMERGENCY POWERS

Nothing in these rules shall:

A. Prohibit Bucks County personnel from establishing additional rules and regulations to protect the health, welfare, safety and property of Domestic Relations Building visitors and users.

Section 9. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any sentence or clause or section of this Ordinance is found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, the remaining sentences, clauses or sections of this Ordinance hereby remain adopted by the County Commissioners of the County of Bucks.

Section 10. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORDINANCE

A. This Ordinance shall become effective on March 29, 1995.


ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Bucks, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania this 29th day of March, 1995.

COUNTY OF BUCKS


Andrew L. Warren, Chairman

Attest:


Michael G. Fitzpatrick


David G. Steinbach,
Chief Clerk


Sandra A. Miller