



## MECKLENBURG COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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### MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Urges Compliance with Courthouse Security Rules Following Rise in Weapons Confiscations**

**Charlotte, N.C.** – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is reminding all staff and visitors to the courthouse of security policies following an increase in firearms being brought into the courthouse. MCSO urges all employees and visitors to be mindful of what personal property they have in their possession as they attempt to enter the facility, to prevent further violations.

Firearms and other prohibited items are strictly forbidden within the courthouse, as outlined on the Mecklenburg County Courthouse website. Security screenings, including metal detectors and live-scan imaging, are in place to prevent weapons from entering the facility.

Courthouse Security Policies include:

- Firearms, knives, and sharp objects are prohibited. Any suspicious items may be subject to examination before entry is permitted.
- All visitors must pass through a metal detector. Those carrying metallic items, including belts and steel-toed shoes, may be subject to additional screening. You may also be scanned with a wand by a deputy to pinpoint the location of metals.
- Electronic devices (laptops, tablets, and cell phones) are allowed but may need to be turned on for inspection.
- No photography, filming, or audio recording is allowed without prior written approval.

The following items are prohibited:

- Alcoholic Beverages
- Audio/Video Recording Equipment
- Brass Knuckles
- Bullets
- Corkscrew
- Fishhook
- Fork (Metal)
- Glass Container
- Guns (ALL)
- Handcuff Key
- Knitting/Sewing Items
- Knives (ALL)
- Kubatons
- Large Safety Pin
- Laser Light
- Leatherman
- Letter Opener
- Meat Thermometer
- Metal Pick
- Nails/Screws
- Paint
- Paint Scraper
- Painters Hook
- Pepper Spray
- Putty Knife
- Razor Blade
- Scissors
- Tasers/Stun Guns
- Tools (ALL)
- Wire Hangers

“This is a serious concern that must be addressed immediately. If the rules cannot be followed, we may need to consider taking a step further and instead of issuing citations, arresting those who bring firearms into the courthouse. It is a Class 1 Misdemeanor in violation of North Carolina General Statute 14-269.4,” Sheriff McFadden said. “We just want to ensure the safety of all staff and the public entering the courthouse, a place which can be very volatile. We can’t read people’s minds or intentions, but we can enforce the rules that are in place to protect everyone.”

For more information on courthouse security policies, visit the Mecklenburg County Courthouse website [HERE](#).

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