

New Court Security Policy:

Effective for Criminal calendars in March, 2005, and for Vehicle and Traffic trial calendars in April, the Bedford Court will implement a new Courtroom Security Policy, as follows:

POLICY REGULATING THE USE OF MAGNETOMETERS

1. POLICY STATEMENT

- A.** All persons entering the court facility will be subject to screening procedures or be allowed to voluntarily leave the facility.
- B.** All magnetometers will be operated within a predetermined authorized calibration. Prohibited items shall be as established by the Justices of the Court from time to time.
- C.** All individuals in Section 2 (A), (B) and (C) (General Exceptions) and Section 3 (Special Exceptions), who are in court, in other than an official capacity, are prohibited from carrying weapons in court facilities. All such individuals will be subject to search procedures.
- D.** There are no provisions for vouchering of prohibited items.

2. GENERAL EXCEPTIONS

- A.** Court Personnel – all judicial and non-judicial personnel will be allowed to bypass the screening procedures provided they produce an employee identification card.
- B.** Other Town Departments – all employees of other departments located in the Town offices at 321 Bedford Road will be allowed to bypass the screening procedures provided they produce an employee identification card. In addition, these departments must provide the Bedford Court with a current list of employees. This list will be updated on a regular basis.
- C.** Law Enforcement Personnel – all law enforcement personnel who are in court in an official capacity will be allowed to bypass the screening procedures provided they produce both an official shield and employee identification card.
- D.** Attorneys – all attorneys will be allowed to bypass the screening procedures provided they produce a Unified Court System Attorney Identification Card. Attorneys who are in possession of firearms/weapons are prohibited from carrying firearms/weapons in court facilities.

3. SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

- A. All requests for special exceptions need to be approved by the appropriate Bedford Town Justice, or his or her designee.
- B. Very specific justification should accompany a special exception request.

Items which will be prohibited in the Courtroom are the following:

SECURITY SCREENING – PROHIBITED ITEMS

Knapsacks, Backpacks, Duffel Bags, Large Purses, Boxes, Carrying Cases, Childrens' Strollers. Parents are encouraged not to bring infants and small children to Court.

Guns and Ammunition including B.B. guns, air and compressed gas-powered guns, pellet guns, flare guns, parts of guns, replicas of guns, gun lighters and starter pistols.

Tools including saws, drills, wrenches, pliers, screwdrivers.

Martial Arts and Self-Defense Items including clubs, black jacks, brass knuckles, sticks and mace/pepper spray.

Sharp Objects including knives (any length), folding knives, pocket knives scissors and utensils incorporating razor-type blades, such as box cutters and utility knives.

Sporting Goods including baseball bats, golf clubs, lacrosse sticks, pool cues, ski poles, spear guns, bows and arrows.

Electronic Devices including cameras, camcorders and tape recorders. PDAs are permitted, and laptop computers are permitted for attorneys only.

Explosive Materials including blasting caps, fireworks and flares

Flammable Items including aerosol cans, fuels, paints and paint thinner, lighter fluid.

Toxic Chemicals and other dangerous items, including chlorine, compressed gas cylinders, liquid bleach, batteries containing liquid (except those powering wheel chairs), spray paint and tear gas.