10

ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF WISE COUNTY, TEXAS, CLARIFYING FACILITIES IN WHICH WEAPONS REMAIN PROHIBITED DUE TO THEIR NATURE AS COURT-ESSENTIAL FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Wise County Commissioners Court supports the right of handgun license holders to carry handguns in authorized facilities and locations; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature passed a law making it unlawful for local governments to exclude licensed holders from carrying handguns unless the facility or office is a court or an office providing an essential function of the court; and

WHEREAS, the Wise County Commissioners Court desires to specifically outline and clarify which Wise County offices and buildings provide essential functions of a court for the benefit and understanding of licensed holders who choose to exercise their right to carry a handgun; and

WHEREAS, the District Court, County Courts-at-Law, and Justice of the Peace Courts in Wise County have been consulted and have issued orders finding areas essential to the operations of their courts. These areas include courtrooms, court administration offices, and common areas and are detailed in the orders attached as Attachment "A"; and

WHEREAS, based on the findings of the courts attached hereto, knowledge of the general day-to-day activities in the affected buildings, and the understanding that areas providing essential court functions should remain protected from prohibited weapons unless they are carried by licensed peace officers and persons otherwise expressly authorized by statute to carry a weapon on the premises of a court or facility providing an essential court function.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF WISE COUNTY, TEXAS, THAT:

1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein and made findings of this Commissioners Court;
2. The attached orders of the District Court, County Courts-at-Law, and Justices of the Peace are acknowledged by this Commissioners Court to designate court-essential offices and areas;
3. Weapons will remain prohibited in those designated court-essential offices and areas unless a person is a licensed peace officer or otherwise expressly authorized by statute to carry a weapon on the premises of a court or court-essential office; and
4. Signage will be placed at the entrances of the designated court-essential offices and areas to give notice of said order.

PASSED this 11th day of January, 2016.

J.D. Clark, County Judge

Danny White, Precinct 1 Commissioner

Kevin Burns, Precinct 2 Commissioner

Harry Lamance, Precinct 3 Commissioner

Gayland Kennedy, Precinct 4 Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS COURT COUNTY OF WISE, TEXAS

ATTEST:

Sherry Lemon, County Clerk

ATTACHMENT "A"

Contents

- Joint Order of the District and County Judges Housed in the Wise County Courthouse Finding Areas Essential to Operations of Their Courts
- Order of the County Court-at-Law 2 Judge of Wise County, Texas, Finding Areas Essential to Operations of the Court
- Joint Order of the Justices of the Peace of Wise County, Texas, Finding Areas Essential to Operations of Their Courts

JOINT ORDER OF THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY JUDGES HOUSED IN THE WISE COUNTY COURTHOUSE FINDING AREAS ESSENTIAL TO OPERATIONS OF THEIR COURTS

The 271st District Judge, the Wise County Court-at-Law 1 Judge, and the Wise County Judge hereby find the following are essential to the operations of their Courts in the Wise County Courthouse:

- All courtrooms;
- All judge's chambers and offices;
- All jury rooms;
- All offices related to the administration of the courts;
- District Clerk's Office
- Restrooms (which are used by jurors, parties, inmates, witnesses, and attorneys);
- All hallways, stairwells, elevators, or common areas in the Wise County Courthouse used to access any of the foregoing; or used as a waiting area for parties, witnesses, or jurors; or used to transport inmates.

The District Judge also finds that the Adult Probation and Juvenile Probation buildings are essential to the operation of his Court.

In addition, the Wise County Court-at-Law 1 Judge finds that the Court Department of the Wise County Clerk's Office in the Records Building is essential to the operation of his Court.

As part of these findings, it is found that the hallways, common areas, stairwells, elevators, and restrooms are all used by jurors, witnesses, attorneys, prosecutors, parties, inmates, and judicial personnel. Use of these areas is integral and necessary to the operations of our courts. In addition, jurors, parties, and witnesses often wait or are required to wait in hallways and common areas, and, due to the nature and layout of the historic building, inmates are transported through these same areas.

Entered this 11th day of January, 2016.

John Fostel, 271st District Judge

Melton Cude, County Court-at-Law 1 Judge

J.D. Clark, Wise County Judge

ORDER OF THE COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW 2 JUDGE OF WISE COUNTY, TEXAS, FINDING AREAS ESSENTIAL TO OPERATIONS OF THE COURT

The County Court-at-Law 2 Judge of Wise County, Texas, hereby finds the following are essential to the operations of Wise County Court-at-Law 2:

- County Court-at-Law 2 courtroom;
- Judge's chamber/office;
- Court clerk office;
- Restrooms (which are used by jurors, parties, witnesses, and attorneys);
- All hallways or common areas used to access any of the foregoing, or used as a waiting area for parties, witnesses, or jurors.

As part of these findings, it is found that the hallways, common areas, and restrooms are all used by jurors, witnesses, attorneys, prosecutors, parties, and judicial personnel. Use of these areas is integral and necessary to the operations of the court. In addition, jurors, parties, and witnesses often wait or are required to wait in hallways and common areas.

Entered this 11th day of January, 2016.

Stephen Wren, Wise County Court-at-Law 2 Judge

JOINT ORDER OF THE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE OF WISE COUNTY, TEXAS, FINDING AREAS ESSENTIAL TO OPERATIONS OF THEIR COURTS

The Justices of the Peace of Wise County, Texas, hereby find the following are essential to the operations of their Courts in the Wise County Courthouse:

- All JP courtrooms;
- All judge's chambers/offices;
- JP Court Clerk offices;
- Restrooms (which are used by jurors, parties, inmates, witnesses, and attorneys);
- All hallways or common areas in each Justice of the Peace's respective building used to access any of the foregoing, or used as a waiting area for parties, witnesses, or jurors.

As part of these findings, it is found that the hallways, common areas, and restrooms are all used by jurors, witnesses, attorneys, prosecutors, parties, and judicial personnel. Use of these areas is integral and necessary to the operations of our courts. In addition, jurors, parties, and witnesses often wait or are required to wait in hallways and common areas.

Entered this 11th day of January, 2016.

Jan Morrow

Jan Morrow, Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace

Craig Johnson, Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace

Mandy Hays, Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace

Clay Poynor, Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace