

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA, ESTABLISHING SECURITY PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND COUNTY ANNEX**

**WHEREAS**, the symbol of government in Dubois County is the Dubois County Courthouse and Annex.

**WHEREAS**, litigants, witnesses, jurors, judicial officers, lawyers, county employees, and the public deserve to feel safe in the places where they work and seek justice.

**WHEREAS**, the Judicial Conference of Indiana has adopted the Indiana Courthouse Security Minimum Standards which apply to every county in Indiana.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Indiana Code Chapter 36-8-2-4, Dubois County, State of Indiana may, among other things, regulate conduct, or use, or possession of property, that might endanger the public health, safety, or welfare.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana adopted Ordinance 2019-07 (Title XIII: General Offenses; Chapter 130: Offenses Against Public Peace; Section 01 of the Dubois County Code) on October 7, 2019 prohibiting the possession of firearms in the Dubois County Courthouse located at One Courthouse Square, Jasper, Indiana and the Dubois County Annex located at 602 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, State of Indiana, desires to provide for the public health, welfare and safety of the citizens of Dubois County by implementing security procedures for the Dubois County Courthouse and the Dubois County Annex.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it Ordained and Enacted by the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, State of Indiana, as follows:

**TITLE:** This Ordinance and all Ordinances supplemental or amendatory hereto shall be known as the “Courthouse and Annex Security Ordinance” and may be cited as such and will be referred to herein as “this Ordinance.”

**AUTHORITY:** The following shall be authorized enforcement agents in the enforcement of this Ordinance: Law Enforcement Officials serving in Dubois County, and their representatives and/or agents are hereby authorized to investigate violations and to perform all actions necessary for the enforcement and administration of this Ordinance and may be referred to as “Enforcement Agents.”

**Section 1.** Pursuant to Ordinance 2019-07 and Indiana Code 35-47-11.1-4(5), no person shall possess a firearm in any building that contains the courtroom of the Dubois Circuit Court, Dubois Superior Court or Dubois Small Claims Court, including but not limited to the

Dubois County Courthouse located at One Courthouse Square, Jasper, Indiana and the Dubois County Annex located at 602 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

**Section 2.** All persons, except those persons noted in **Section 7** below, are prohibited from entering the Dubois County Courthouse or the Dubois County Annex while carrying any of the following:

- a) A deadly weapon, as defined by state law;
- b) A firearm, as defined by I.C. 35-47-1-5;
- c) An electric stun weapon, as defined by I.C. 35-47-8-1;
- d) A stun gun, as defined by I.C. 35-47-8-2;
- e) A taser, as defined by I.C. 35-47-8-3;
- f) A knife;
- g) An explosive device;
- h) A club;
- i) Any other object that, in the manner in which it is used, or is intended to be used is readily capable of causing serious bodily injury, as defined by state law; or
- j) A biological disease, virus, or organism that is capable of causing serious bodily injury.

**Section 3.** During normal business hours, any individual, including employees (with the exception of those individuals set forth below in subsections (a)-(d)), may enter or exit the Courthouse only through the east entrance.

- a) County law enforcement officers and those individuals in their custody;
- b) County maintenance staff;
- c) Department heads receiving deliveries from a vendor; and
- d) Any other individual with authorization from the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana.

**Section 4.** Any person who enters the Dubois County Courthouse or the Dubois County Annex is deemed to consent to a search of their person or property for deadly weapons and any other items outlined in **Section 2**. Any person refusing to comply with this section will be denied entrance into the Dubois County Courthouse or the Dubois County Annex.

**Section 5.** Deadly weapons and other items listed in **Section 2** herein, found in the Dubois County Courthouse or the Dubois County Annex will be confiscated, and if legal to possess, returned to the owner after the payment of the fine set out in **Section 9** of this Ordinance.

**Section 6.** This Ordinance is enacted in conjunction with Ordinance 2019-07 (Title XIII: General Offenses; Chapter 130: Offenses Against Public Peace; Section 01 of the Dubois County Code).

**Section 7.** The following persons, who are in the Dubois County Courthouse or the Dubois County Annex for official business and duly authorized to carry deadly weapons, are exempt from this Ordinance:

- a) A federal, state or local law enforcement officer;
- b) State Department of Correction officers;
- c) A judicial officer; and
- d) A person who has been employed by the Board of County Commissioners as a security officer or who has been authorized by the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County or by a Judge of the Dubois Circuit or Superior Court to possess a firearm.

Law enforcement personnel and other individuals listed as exempt in this **Section 7** that are appearing at the Dubois County Courthouse or the Dubois County Annex in the normal course of business may be allowed to retain their firearm while in the Dubois County Courthouse or the Dubois County Annex. Off-duty law enforcement officers who are in the Dubois County Courthouse or the Dubois County Annex appearing for a hearing in a civil matter in which they, or a family member, are an interested party, witness or litigant will not be allowed to enter the Dubois County Courthouse or the Dubois County Annex with a firearm (does not include when the Officer is appearing as a witness in a criminal matter, regardless of whether he/she is on or off duty).

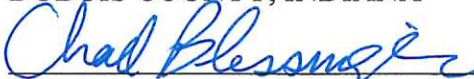
**Section 8.** Employees of the county are subject to the provisions of this Ordinance; however, employees of the county who carry chemical spray devices for personal protection are allowed to do so.

**Section 9.** Any person in violation of this Ordinance shall be subject to enforcement by Law Enforcement Officials serving in Dubois County, Indiana, and the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana, which shall be authorized to impose as penalty a fine not to exceed Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00); provided, that nothing herein shall prevent prosecution of said violation in any Court of record.

**Section 10.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon this adoption and its publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024 by the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA



CHAD BLESSINGER, President



SERICE STENFTENAGEL, Commissioner



NICK HOSTETTER, Commissioner

ATTEST:



SANDRA L. MORTON, AUDITOR OF  
DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA