

Effective September 5th 2017, TCSO Courthouse Security will be implementing an employee and authorized defense attorney entrance at the Gault Building East Door. This entrance is not for public use. Employees and authorized defense attorneys wishing to use this entrance will be subject to a computerized random full screening process of their person and all carried items to ensure the safety and security of the facility. This entrance will be open Monday- Friday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. After/early hour access will remain available for employees through the CJC main entrance via access proxy card. The Gault East Door is an entrance only except during emergency evacuation events. All persons will exit through the CJC.

The Blackwell-Thurman Criminal Justice Center (CJC) main entrance will be full screening for the public to enter the building.

If an employee or authorized defense attorney wishes to use the CJC main entrance to enter the building they will go through the full screening process.

The Courthouse Security Section's mission and goal is to ensure that all who enter any courthouse are free of weapons, contraband or any item deemed a security threat, by adhering to this screening process. Those persons refusing to participate in the screening process will be denied access to the building.

Gault East Door Screening Procedures:

1. Computerized Random Full Screening Process

Upon entering the Gault East door entrance the employee or authorized defense attorney will display their county issued ID badge. If they do not have a county badge in their possession they will not be able to enter through the Gault East door and can use the public entrance (CJC).

The employee or authorized defense attorney will step through the computerized laser beam and the computer will randomly determine if the person is selected to go through the full screening process. A green light will indicate that the person may by-pass screening. A red light will indicate that the person must go through full screening.

2. X-Ray Machine Operations

All persons selected by the random computerized system to be screened are required to have all carried items (purses, back packs, boxes, briefcases etc.) x-rayed before entering the building. Items too large to enter the x-ray machine will be inspected by hand.

All persons being screened are required to empty all contents from their pockets, remove any belts, and place them into a screening tray. The tray will be placed onto the conveyor belt of the x-ray machine for inspection.

3. Walk-Through Metal Detector (Magnetometer) & Handheld Metal Detector:

Each person participating in the screening process is required to pass through the walk-through metal detector. In the event a person has medical limitations or is using a device for physical assistance (i.e. wheelchairs, walkers, etc.) those persons may step around the metal detector at the direction of screening staff and submit to screening utilizing the hand held metal detector. Any person causing the walk through metal detector to activate will be further screened by use of a handheld metal detector. Multiple boxes and/or exhibits for court will be searched.

4. Prohibited items include but are not limited to:

- Any firearm, firearm magazine or ammunition possessed by anyone other than a peace officer or corrections officer on official business, regardless of License To Carry (LTC).
- Holsters - except those possessed by peace officers or corrections officers on official business that are on duty and required to carry these items.
- Any replica or toy guns.
- Any prohibited weapon as defined by the TX Penal Code.
- Any chemical agents, including butane fuel, aerosol spray or flammable liquid.
- All stun guns or Tasers
- Any location-restricted knife as defined by the TX Penal Code.
- Any razor or box cutting type knife.
- Ice picks.
- Any items which contain a concealed type weapon, Handcuffs, handcuff keys – except those possessed by peace officers or county employees that are on duty, that are required to carry these items.
- Any other pointed objects capable of inflicting a stab wound or objects with sharpened edges or surfaces capable of cutting.

CHS personnel will not hold prohibited items for anyone.

Anyone who enters the building with an item that is not allowed will be required to exit the building immediately and will need to properly secure the item before returning.

Upon returning the person will have to repeat the screening process.

5. Exempt Access is a privilege extended by the Sheriff's Office to specific personnel in order to expedite their entry past security screening stations.

- Judges.
- Uniformed Peace Officers who display departmental issued credentials on work related business.
- Properly identified Peace Officers on work related official business.
- Travis County Sheriff's Office employees that are on duty that are required to carry a firearm in the course of their duties.