

Adopted
1-12-16



**COMMISSIONERS COURT
PARKER COUNTY**

**Mark Riley
County Judge**

**John Forrest
County Attorney**

**George Conley
Commissioner Precinct 1**

**Larry Walden
Commissioner Precinct 3**

**Craig Peacock
Commissioner Precinct 2**

**Steve Dugan
Commissioner Precinct 4**

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

RE: Firearm Possession in County Buildings

The Texas Attorney General has issued two opinions (KP-0047 and KP-0049) providing guidance to governmental entities regarding the extent to which firearms may be carried in buildings housing courts, and the "essential offices of the courts".

To comply with Texas law, local governments are required to adopt a specific policy defining the areas where firearms may be carried and where firearms are restricted in county buildings.

Citizens have the right, under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Texas to possess firearms in public buildings, with the exception of those areas enumerated in Sec. 46.03 and Sec. 46.035 of the Texas Penal Code, and as outlined in Attorney General Opinions KP-0047 and KP-0049, which includes areas identified as being "essential to the operations of the courts".

The Judicial Council of Parker County, comprised of the judges of the 43rd and 415th District Courts and County-Court-at-Law and County-Court-at-Law #2, has identified specific areas that are "essential to the operations of the courts". Their order is attached, and adopted by the Commissioners Court as recommended.

The Commissioners Court has adopted Order OR16-04 which specifies courtrooms and court support offices where firearms are prohibited as stated in Texas law. Areas not identified in the OR16-04, or any attachment, are not included in the prohibition defined by law.

OR16-04
JANUARY 12, 2016

At a regular meeting of Commissioners Court of Parker County, Texas held on the 12th day of January 2016, on motion made by:

Judge Riley and seconded by: Commissioner Walden

The following ORDER was adopted:

THE COMMISSIONERS COURT §
STATE OF TEXAS §
PARKER COUNTY, TEXAS §

OR16-04

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature has determined where firearms may be carried in government buildings if the person has a license to carry.

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature has designated areas where firearms are not permitted in government buildings, specifically courtrooms and any offices or areas that are essential to court operations.

WHEREAS, the Judicial Council of Parker County, comprised of the Judges of the 43rd, 415th District Courts, County Court at Law, and County Court at Law 2 have identified specific areas of Parker County Government buildings as courts or areas “essential to the operations of the courts” specifically identified in Attachment ‘EXHIBIT A’ of this order.

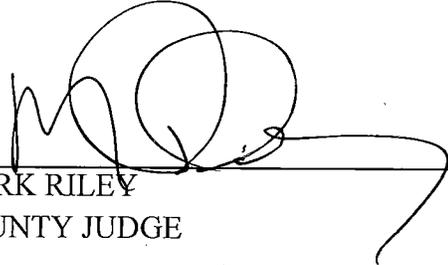
WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Parker County is required by law to adopt a policy that conforms with the statutes. The Court adopts the recommendation of the Judicial Council of Parker County and approves ‘EXHIBIT A’ that specifies where firearms cannot be carried.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF PARKER COUNTY, that firearms may not be carried in any of the areas of ‘EXHIBIT A’.

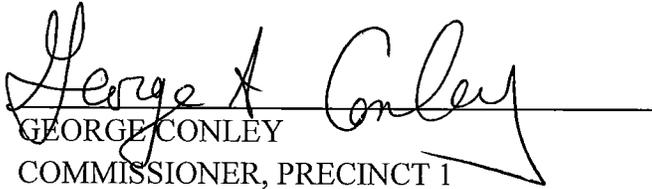
THE COURT FURTHER ORDERS, signs that comply with **Section 411.209 of the Texas Government Code and Sections 46.03, 30.06, 30.07, 38.11, and 46.035 of the Texas Penal Code**, be erected at the appropriate county buildings and correctional facilities.

As already stated in law, firearms are prohibited in any courtroom, or a room where an open meeting of the governing body is being conducted. Generally, hallways and other public common areas are not part of any restriction of firearm possession.

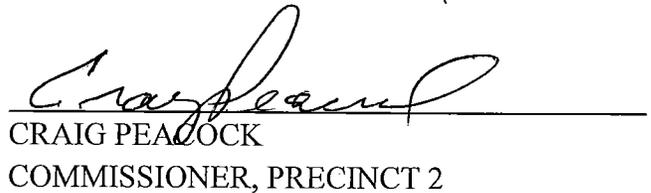
State law dictates the size, wording, and type-size of sign required to inform citizens of where firearms are prohibited by law. Two signs in English and two in Spanish are required to be posted at each location where firearms are prohibited, for a total of four signs. Signs will be printed and posted at the direction of the County Attorney and/or County Judge. No sign except one approved by the County Attorney shall be erected regarding this issue.



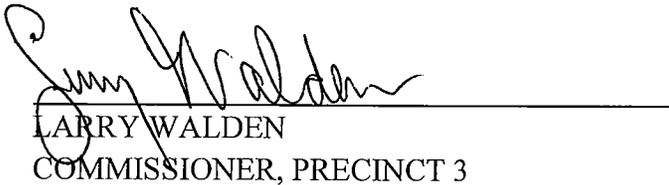
MARK RILEY
COUNTY JUDGE



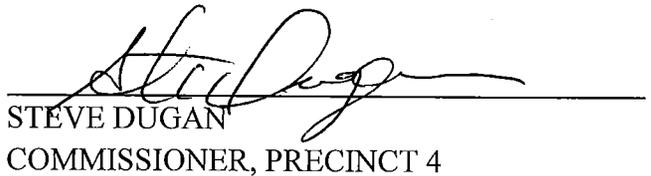
GEORGE CONLEY
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1



CRAIG PEACOCK
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

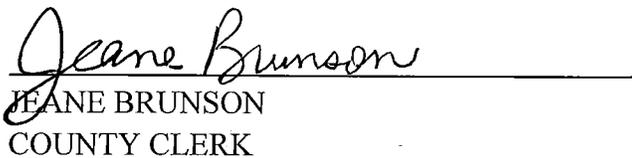


LARRY WALDEN
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3



STEVE DUGAN
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

ATTEST:



JEANE BRUNSON
COUNTY CLERK



EXHIBIT A

Attachment to Commissioners Court Order OR16-04.

Following areas have been determined to be essential to the operation of the Parker County Courts system.

1. District Courts Building-117 Fort Worth Hwy.
 - A. 43rd District Court-Courtroom, Judge's Chambers, Jury room, Court Reporter's office and Staff offices
 - B. 415th District Court-Courtroom, Judge's Chambers, Jury room, Court Reporter's office and Staff offices
 - C. District Clerk Offices

2. Community Supervision Corrections Department (CSCD)-1675 Fort Worth Hwy.
 - A. Entire Building

3. Juvenile Probation-110 Throckmorton Street
 - A. Entire Building

4. Courthouse-1 Courthouse Square
 - A. County Court-at-Law 2-Courtroom, Judge's Chambers, Jury room, Court Reporter's office and Staff offices
 - B. County Clerk Offices
 - C. Commissioners Court Meeting Room-when Court is in session.

5. Annex-1112 Santa Fe Drive
 - A. JP 3-Courtroom, Judge's Chambers, and Staff offices
 - B. County Court-at-Law 1-Courtroom, Judge's Chambers, Jury room, Court Reporter's office and Staff offices
 - C. County Clerk-Criminal Court Division
 - D. Probate Clerk

6. Springtown Annex-1020 E. Hwy 199 East
 - A. JP 1-Courtroom, Judge's Chambers, and Staff offices

7. County Building-207 Fort Worth Hwy
 - A. JP 2-Courtroom, Judge's Chambers, and Staff offices

8. Willow Park Annex-5189 E. I-20 Service Road N.
 - A. JP 4-Courtroom, Judge's Chambers and Staff offices

RESOLUTION
COUNCIL OF JUDGES, PARKER COUNTY, TEXAS

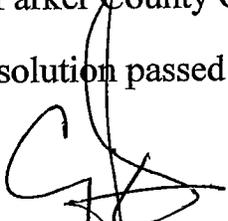
Whereas, the Texas Legislature enacted Texas Government Code § 411.209, Wrongful Exclusion of Concealed Handgun License Holder, Section 46.03 or 46.035 of the Texas Penal Code; and,

Whereas, the Council of Judges in response to said legislation makes the following resolution.

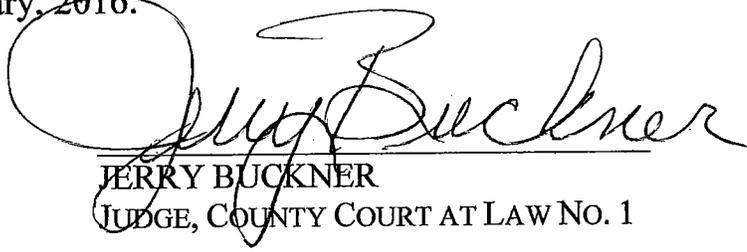
Now therefore, be it RESOLVED by the Council of Judges of Parker County, Texas that the following locations are government courts or offices utilized by the courts and supports the designation of same:

- 43rd District Court courtroom, court offices, jury room and office of the court reporter;
- 415th District Court courtroom, court offices, jury room and office of the court reporter;
- County Court at Law No. 1 courtroom, court offices, jury room and office of the court reporter;
- County Court at Law No. 2 courtroom, court offices, jury room and office of the court reporter;
- Community Supervision and Corrections Department (Adult Probation) offices and building;
- Parker County Juvenile Probation Department offices and building;
- Parker County District Clerk's offices;
- Parker County Clerk's office for County Court at Law No. 1;
- Parker County Probate Clerk's office; and,
- Parker County Clerk's office for County Court at Law No. 2.

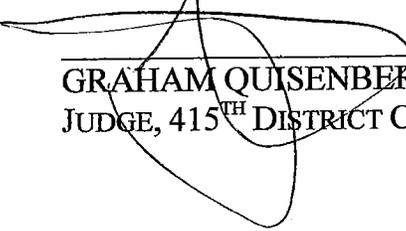
Resolution passed this 6th day of January, 2016.



CRAIG TOWSON
JUDGE, 43RD DISTRICT COURT



JERRY BUCKNER
JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1



GRAHAM QUISENBERRY
JUDGE, 415TH DISTRICT COURT



CURTIS JENKINS
JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2