SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENTAL POLICY

Subject: INAPPROPRIATE PUBLIC ATTIRE

Policy

Public access to courtrooms and court services is essential to providing justice to the people of this community. While ensuring that the public has access to court proceedings, the court must also uphold the integrity of the judicial system by providing a safe, respectful and fair environment for all who enter its facilities. Within this responsibility, the court must also ensure that the appearance of those who enter does not disrupt, detract from or attempt to influence either its proceedings or the delivery of its services.

Purpose

Within the court building, the court will restrict as inappropriate public attire any clothing that includes slogans, words, graphic depictions or designs that are offensive, vulgar or sexually explicit; clothing deemed to affect adversely business or decorum in the courthouse or courtroom proceedings; or clothing which attempts to influence courtroom proceedings.

Procedure

1. It is the responsibility of entrance security staff and court security officers to ensure that members of the public comply with this policy.

2. Persons who enter the court building wearing inappropriate articles of clothing that they may remove without compromising dignity or modesty (jackets and vests, for example) will be directed to turn over such clothing items to security staff for safekeeping, to be returned when the parties leave the courthouse.

3. Persons who enter wearing shirts or tops deemed in violation of this policy will be asked to move to a restroom facility on the first floor, where they will be instructed to turn the shirts or tops inside out for wear while they conduct business in the court building.

4. Individuals who fail to comply with this policy will be referred to Judicial Security. No member of the public shall be ordered to leave the building without the approval of the court's security manager, facilities director or other court manager or director. If, however, the individual's business is only with the Clerk of Court's office (1st or 2nd floor), approval for that person's removal from the building must be by the Clerk or designee.

K. Kent Batty
Court Administrator