

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

***(Security – Courtroom Restraints)***

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-105(b)(12) the Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, MD is responsible for the overall administration of the Circuit Court, including taking needed steps to ensure the effective administration of the internal management of the court and the prompt disposition of litigation in it; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining the safety of those who visit and work in the courthouse is of the utmost importance and is necessary for the Court to provide fair, efficient, and effective resolution to legal disputes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sheriff for Montgomery County, MD is responsible for establishing and maintaining security in and about the Montgomery County Judicial Center; and

**WHEREAS**, after review of practices followed in other jurisdictions, the undersigned has determined that to maintain appropriate security in courtrooms during criminal proceedings, detained individuals shall be restrained with waist-chain handcuffs and leg irons; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions in this Administrative Order do not apply during jury trials or whenever jurors are present in the courtroom; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions in this Administrative Order do not apply to juvenile detainees.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, upon consideration of the foregoing, it is this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025,

**ORDERED**, commencing September 2, 2025, and until further administrative order, during criminal proceedings, other than juvenile proceedings and other than jury trials or whenever jurors are present in the courtroom, detained, in custody individuals shall be restrained with waist-chain handcuffs and leg irons while in the courtroom; and, it is further

**ORDERED**, that at the beginning of each such hearing, the presiding judge shall inform the detained individual that he or she is being restrained pursuant to an administrative order of the court that applies to all detained, in custody individuals.



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James A. Bonifant,  
Administrative Judge,  
Circuit Court for Montgomery County, MD