

PROHIBITION OF FIREARMS AND DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN AND ON
BENTON COUNTY BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Supervisors, consistent with the safety of the public and county employees and officials and consistent with past practice and policy, desires to prohibit the presence of firearms and dangerous weapons in and on county buildings and property, and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 331.502(1), has the authority to direct the general custody and control of the courthouse and other county buildings and property and also, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 602.1303, to provide offices and spaces for the Courts, with appropriate funding, and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Supervisors, Benton County Conservation Board, and Benton County Board of Health have adopted policies and regulations in their respective employee handbooks which address the safety of Benton County employees in the workplace, and

WHEREAS, the amendments to Chapter 724 contained in Senate File 2379 (effective January 1, 2011) relating to the issuance of non-professional permits to carry firearms does not infringe on the authority or power of the Board of Supervisors to enact regulations and pass resolutions regarding the protection of county property, the protection of the health, safety and welfare of county employees and officials and the public who may be present on county property by restricting firearms and dangerous weapons on property or in buildings owned, leased, or occupied by Benton County, and

WHEREAS, the order of the Chief Judge for the Sixth Judicial District already prohibits firearms in the courtrooms of the courthouse while court is in session, and

WHEREAS, the Supervisors recognize that all law enforcement officers and other persons who have valid professional permits to carry weapons will be exempt from this resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Conservation Board has previously adopted rules and regulations prohibiting firearms and dangerous weapons in all county parks, with the following specific exceptions:

- Designated hunting areas in county parks during the appropriate hunting seasons.
- Registered participants in Hunter Safety classes held at county parks or in county buildings by the Benton County Conservation Board or by other organizations or persons approved by the Conservation Board.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that all firearms and other dangerous weapons are prohibited in or on all buildings and property that is owned, leased, or occupied by Benton County, including but not limited to the courthouse, all county office buildings and property outside the courthouse, and with the exceptions previously adopted by the Benton County Conservation Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that persons who have a valid professional permit to carry weapons are exempt from this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that persons acting in violation of this policy shall be subject to prosecution for criminal trespass.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy shall be in full force and effect as of the date this resolution is approved by the Board of Supervisors.

APPROVED this 11th day of January 2011.

Adopted by the Benton County Board of Supervisors
January 11, 2011