

THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

GENERAL COURT ORDER)
)
Trial and Appellate Divisions)

GCO No. 2017-004

**DRESS CODE AND PROHIBITED ITEMS FOR THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA**

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court in art. XI, sec. 9 of the Constitution and section 117 of title 4 of the Judiciary Act of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (4 F.S.M.C. sec. 117), and in recognition of

The need for a dress code to promote a feeling of integrity and value in, and for, respect of the judicial process in the national court. Those who attend court, are employed by the court, or transact business with the court are to dress appropriately as set forth in this Dress Code and Prohibited Items policy. Certain items as set forth below are also prohibited from being brought into the courtrooms of the FSM Supreme Court.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the following Dress Code and Prohibited Items policy is HEREBY ADOPTED for the FSM Supreme Court:

**DRESS CODE AND PROHIBITED ITEMS
FOR THE FSM SUPREME COURT**
(Promulgated April, 2017)

PURPOSE

This Dress Code and Prohibited Items policy is implemented to set a general standard of dress and appearance before the FSM Supreme Court. It also designates certain items that are prohibited from the courtrooms of the FSM Supreme Court. The Dress Code and Prohibited Items policy shall encourage professionalism, respectability, and a secure environment for all those who appear before and conduct business with, the FSM Supreme Court.

In each national courtroom and court office facility in the states of the FSM, local custom and tradition shall factor into the matter of appropriate courtroom dress and attire. Dress of counsel, court employees, and members of the general public while in the courtroom, or on the court's premises, may differ depending on various factors, including, but not limited to, the weather, the evolving local legal culture, and community standards of decency.

All persons in the courtroom, or elsewhere on the court's premises, shall be appropriately attired in accordance with local standards of decency and decorum. The court's authority and responsibility to promote respect for the national judiciary, security in the courtroom and court offices, shall be factored into any decisions regarding appropriate dress and attire.

Each Justice is responsible for requiring proper dress and attire in the courtroom in which he or she is appearing. The Office of Justice Ombudsman shall oversee compliance with the suitable dress policy and prohibited items in the court's facilities.

EMPLOYEES OF THE COURT

Female employees of the court: shall wear dresses, dress suits, dress slacks, skirts and blouses. Levis or jeans are not allowed. All clothing shall be free from stains or other signs of extreme wear. All footwear shall be professional and shall not include beach sandals or casual sandals. Open toed slippers or zories are not allowed to be worn. These rules shall not apply to persons with a medical or other disabling physical reason that prevents their compliance. Employees may also dress accordingly based on the nature of their work with the court.

Male employees of the court: shall wear a collared shirt at all times. An island-print, formal dress shirt with a collar and at least three buttons down the front of the shirt may also be worn. Slacks or dress pants must be worn. Levis, jeans, short pants, and cargo pants or similarly styled pants, are not allowed to be worn. All clothing shall be free from stains or other signs of extreme wear. All footwear worn in court shall not reveal the person's toes. These rules shall not apply to persons with a medical or other disabling physical reason that may prevent their compliance. Employees may also dress accordingly based on the nature of their work with the court.

OFFICERS OF THE COURT

Female attorneys or trial counselors: shall wear dresses, dress suits, dress slacks, skirts and blouses. Levis or jeans are not allowed to be worn in court. All clothing shall be free from stains or other signs of extreme wear. Open toed rubber slippers or zories are not allowed to be worn in court. Cell phones shall be turned off during court proceedings. These rules shall not apply to persons with a medical or other disabling physical reason that prevents their compliance.

Male attorneys or trial counselors: may wear a colored or white, long-sleeved, dress shirt, which may be accompanied by a discreetly colored tie during court proceedings. Alternatively, an island-print shirt with a collar and at least three buttons down the front of the shirt may also be worn. Slacks or dress pants must be worn while attending or appearing before the court. Levis, jeans, short pants, and cargo pants or similarly styled pants, are not allowed to be worn in court. All clothing shall be free from stains or signs of extreme wear. All footwear worn in court shall not reveal the

person's toes, and flip-flops rubber slippers, or zories are not allowed. Cell phones shall be turned off during court proceedings. These rules shall not apply to persons with a medical or other disabling physical reason that may prevent their compliance.

Law Enforcement Officers: shall be allowed to wear the uniform prescribed to them, if at the time of their attendance they are on official duty. Otherwise, all law enforcement officers shall comply with the applicable paragraph above.

Local Traditional or Customary Attire: in any of the four island states of the FSM, court employees, attorneys, law enforcement officers may appear in court in the customary or traditional attire of that island state.

GENERAL PUBLIC

Females: shall wear dresses, long pants, skirts, blouses, shorts and appropriate footwear. Clothing shall not expose a person's bare midriff, and shall be conservative and not skimpy or revealing. All clothing shall be recently laundered and free from stains or other extreme signs of wear.

Males: shall wear long pants, or presentable short pants, collared dress shirt with at least three buttons down the front, or a presentable t-shirt. All clothing shall be recently laundered and free from stains or other extreme signs of wear.

Local Traditional or Customary Attire: in any of the four island states of the FSM, the public may appear in court in the customary or traditional attire of that island state.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

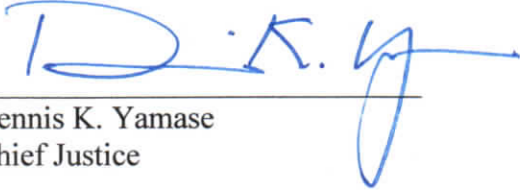
Without the court's permission, or unless they are needed for evidence in a case, the following items are not allowed in the courtroom: muscle shirts, skimpy outfits or t-shirts with indecent words or graphics, all weapons such as firearms, ammunition, knives, explosive devices, etc., and audio or video recording devices such as video or still cameras or voice recorders.

EFFECTIVE DATE AND AMENDMENTS

This Dress Code and Prohibited Items policy shall come into effect upon the approval of the Chief Justice, and shall replace any previous policy on this subject matter that has been enacted by the court.

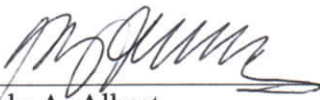
This Dress Code and Prohibited Items policy may be amended, and shall be subject to a thirty (30) day review and comment period for all proposed amendments.

SO ORDERED this 29th day of April, 2017.



Dennis K. Yamase
Chief Justice

ENTERED this 28th day of April, 2017.



Sandy A. Albert
Clerk of the FSM Supreme Court