



HOUSE RULES

for the Palace of Justice

Preliminary remark

The Palace of Justice houses courts and authorities. Criminal and civil proceedings are being held, to which persons are summoned or brought from custody.

Behaviour in the building must be adapted to the purpose of the building.

The Palace of Justice is not a museum. The Palace of Justice is not a backdrop for advertising shots, fashion photography and similar purposes.

General Information

1. Persons entering the Palace of Justice are subject to the provisions of the Courts Organisation Act (GOG) and these house rules.

Anyone who disregards the law or the house rules will be refused entry or expelled from the building.

2. The house rules apply to the entire building.
3. The powers of the judges during court hearings (session police) are not affected by the house rules.
4. The President of the Higher Regional Court of Vienna shall exercise domiciliary rights.

The heads of the departments and authorities in the building may issue further directives for their area of responsibility. The President of the Higher Regional Court of Vienna must be informed of such orders.

Stay in the building and security

5. Persons entering the building will be checked.

The orders of the control bodies must be complied with.

Persons named in § 4 of the Court Organisation Act are exempt from the security check if they identify themselves with a service card or professional card and declare that they have no weapons with them.

6. It is forbidden to bring weapons into the building.

Weapons are all dangerous objects capable of threatening life and limb (§ 1 of the Court Organisation Act).

Persons who are obliged to carry weapons (judicial guards, police, customs guards) are exempt from this prohibition.

7. Persons may only enter the building in clothing appropriate to the seriousness and dignity of the administration of justice.
8. Smoking is prohibited in all rooms of the building; this also applies to e-cigarettes, vaporisers and the like.
9. It is forbidden to sit on the floor or on stairs.
10. Written notices, signs, pictograms and other information restricting access to certain parts of the building must be observed.
11. It is forbidden to bring foul-smelling or heavily soiled objects into the building.
12. It is forbidden to make noise in the building.
13. It is forbidden to bring animals into the building unless the President of the Higher Regional Court of Vienna has granted authorisation.

This prohibition does not apply to service dogs, guide dogs and assistance dogs.

14. Persons not employed in the Palace of Justice may only enter the building through the main entrance at Schmerlingplatz 11.
15. Access to the courtyards is only permitted with the authorisation of the President of the Higher Regional Court of Vienna.
16. The President of the Higher Regional Court of Vienna may in particular order the following additional measures:
 - Checks on persons and property using technical equipment of all kinds;
 - Prohibition of access for certain persons;
 - Restriction or prohibition of access at certain times and/or to certain areas of the Palace of Justice;
 - Obligation to establish identity or to deposit an official photo ID;
 - Restriction of access for tourists.
17. Further necessary security measures may be ordered for special reasons.
18. Security-related incidents must be reported immediately to the Presidium of the Higher Regional Court of Vienna (telephone extension 303617, 303378, 303390).

Photography, filming, sound recordings

19. Photography and filming inside the building are strictly prohibited.

Exceptions apply to:

- a. Members of the media for filming and photography as part of trial coverage outside courtrooms, whilst respecting the personal rights of third parties;
- b. Tourists (point 24 of the house rules) for exclusively private photographs of individuals with their consent.

20. During court proceedings, it is strictly forbidden to take photographs, film or make audio recordings (Section 22 of the Media Act, Section 228(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure). Unauthorised recordings are deemed to constitute a disruption of the proceedings; the judge may exclude the person concerned from the proceedings.
21. The President of the Vienna Higher Regional Court may order that no equipment capable of producing photographs, film recordings, video recordings or audio recordings may be brought into the building.
22. The President of the Vienna Higher Regional Court may, in individual cases and upon a reasoned application, authorise photographs, film recordings and/or audio recordings, e.g. for (historical) documentaries or for artistic or scientific purposes. Under no circumstances shall wedding photographs, fashion photographs, advertising or content of any kind for online platforms, social media and the like be permitted.

Visits to the Palace of Justice, tourism

23. The building can only be visited between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The building is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.
24. Tourists (i.e. persons who do not work in the building, who are not invited to or attending court hearings, who have no other professional reason to enter the building and who are not using any other official services in the building) must give way to all other persons when entering the building.

Only 25 tourists per hour are admitted to the building.
25. Only the following areas are accessible to tourists:
 - the entrance area;
 - the central hall (assembly hall);

- the grand staircase leading to the second floor;
- the gallery on the second floor along the central hall (assembly hall);
- the Justizcafé on the fifth floor (accessible by lift).

All other areas of the building are not accessible for tours.

26. Excluded from these restrictions are expressly authorised visits and events.

Note

Anyone who disregards the orders provided for in the house rules and has therefore not carried out a procedural act necessary for the prosecution or legal defence or has not fulfilled an obligation in court shall be deemed to be in default without excuse (§ 16 (5) of the Court Organisation Act).

As of: June 2026