



Spokane County  
— Sheriff —  
Ozzie Knezovich  
News Release

Sgt. Dave Reagan  
477-6612  
Pager 477-4209 #0348

March 3, 2010

### Gun Seized In Courthouse Annex

A 22-year-old Spokane woman was arrested Wednesday morning after security staff in the Spokane County Courthouse discovered a loaded pistol in her purse as she was headed to a domestic violence hearing.

Stacey L. Atkins was cited for Possession of a Concealed Dangerous Weapon and Carrying a Weapon into a Prohibited Place. Both are misdemeanors and she was released after she signed the promise to appear in court.

Security staff discovered the pistol as Atkins' purse went through the x-ray machine at the annex entrance on the north side of the courthouse. They seized the purse and called Deputy Steve Martone to the station.

Martone oversees the courthouse security program. He detained and interviewed Atkins, then placed the Bersa .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol on police property as evidence. The gun's magazine was loaded, but there was no bullet in the chamber.

Security in the Spokane County Courthouse was beefed up after a fatal shooting in a King County domestic violence courtroom in 1995. A husband facing divorce shot and killed his wife and her two female friends with a pistol he pulled from his briefcase.

Carrying a concealed firearm is lawful if the person has obtained a Washington State Concealed Weapon Permit. However, buildings housing a courtroom are one of several specific facilities where firearms are prohibited by law.

rdr