Courtroom and Courthouse Security Minimum Standards

Tennessee Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts and the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy 2018





Minimum Security Standards Administrative Office of the Courts Tennessee Judicial Conference Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference

- Silent bench and court clerk's public transaction counter panic button connected directly to sheriff's department or police department
- 2. Bullet Resistant bench and court clerk work area in courtrooms
- 3. Availability of armed, uniformed court officer in each courtroom during court sessions
- 4. Court security training for court officers. Court security briefing on annual basis for judicial staff and courthouse personnel

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- 5. Hand-held detectors (minimum of 2) and/or magnetometers in each county to assure the safety in each courthouse or courtroom.
- 6. Each court building shall have signage posted at each court access entrance stating that all persons are subject to search by security personnel. Prohibited items are subject to seizure and forfeiture. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to, the following: firearms; other forms of weaponry; and any items that can be transformed into a weapon
- 7. Hand-held inspection security mirror to be used to view under courtroom seating and other areas for safety in the courthouse and/or courtrooms

Additional Security Recommendations

- 1. Contact liaison on court security in Administrative Office of the Courts:
- 2. Conduct periodic surveys
- Prior to any new construction or renovation consult with Administrative Office of the Courts
- 4. Medical and family data on each judge kept in clerk's office

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- Emergency procedures plan developed and advertised to employees for each courtroom and judges chambers
- 6. Establish a courtroom security plan
- 7. Establish transportation and prisoner handling procedures. Holding cell should be provided near courtroom. Transport of prisoners should be away from public
- 8. Mobile security plan or team for high risk trials
- 9. All judicial staff employees should receive orientation on security procedures.