



2022

COUNTY COURTROOM SECURITY REPORT

Per statute, this survey must be completed each year. Completion of this survey will require input from multiple people, including court clerks, court officers, and judges.

COURTHOUSE(S) AND COURTROOMS

1. How many courthouses are in your county, including criminal justice centers with courtrooms?	2
a. If there is more than one courthouse, please explain what types of court are held in which locations (where is circuit court, chancery court, general sessions, and juvenile court held?) We have one courthouse and the courthouse annex. Main courthouse has circuit court, juvenile court, and general sessions court. The annex holds chancery court and child support court.	
2. Number of courtrooms used only for state Circuit Court, state Criminal Court, Chancery Court, or Probate Court.	2
3. Number of courtrooms used only for General Sessions Court and/or Juvenile Court.	1
4. Number of courtrooms used for both state court and county courts.	3
5. Number of courtrooms in your county that are no longer used for official state or county proceedings (ex. Ceremonial or historical courtrooms that are no longer in use for official proceedings).	0
6. Total number of courtrooms in your county. Do NOT include ceremonial courtrooms no longer in use for official proceedings. <i>Please note the total number of courtrooms in your county is used to evaluate whether your county meets the minimum security standards.</i>	3



SILENT BENCH PANIC BUTTONS (MCSS #1)

1. Number of courtrooms equipped with a silent bench panic button connected to law enforcement.	3
2. Number of court clerk public transaction counter areas in all of your courthouses. Please include public transaction counters for Circuit, Criminal, Chancery, General Sessions and/or Juvenile Court clerks.	4
a. Number of court clerk public transaction counters equipped with a silent bench panic button connected to law enforcement.	3

BULLET-PROOF BENCHES/WORK AREAS (MCSS # 2)

1. Number of courtrooms equipped with a bullet-proof bench.	3
2. Number of courtrooms with bullet-proof court clerk work area.	3

COURT OFFICERS (MCSS #3 and #4)

1. Is an armed, uniformed guard in each courtroom during court? a. If no, is a court officer available in the courthouse?	Yes
2. Does your county have dedicated court officers or does it utilize on-duty law enforcement when there are court proceedings? (dedicated, mix, on-duty)	Yes
3. Do court proceedings impact your county’s ability to respond to emergencies in other areas of your county?	No
4. Did your court officers attend court security training in 2022? a. If no, how often do court officers in your county attend training?	Yes
5. Have the judicial staff and courthouse personnel from your county attended a court security briefing in 2022?	Yes

HAND-HELD DETECTORS/MAGNETOMETERS (MCSS # 5)

1. Total number of hand-held detectors in your county courthouse(s).	2
2. Total number of stand-alone magnetometers in each county courthouse.	2
3. Does your county have sufficient security staff to operate magnetometers during regular business hours?	Yes



SIGNAGE (MCSS # 6)

1. Does each of the court buildings in your county have signage posted at each court access entrance stating that persons are subject to search by security personnel, that prohibited items are subject to seizure and forfeiture, and include a listing of the prohibited items?	Yes
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HAND-HELD INSPECTION MIRRORS (MCSS # 7)

1. Do you have at least one hand-held inspection security mirror per county courthouse?	Yes
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COURT SECURITY COMMITTEE

1. Does your county have a court security committee?	Yes
a. If yes, did the committee meet this year to review security issues and make recommendations?	Yes

VIDEO ARRAIGNMENT & CONFERENCING

1. Does your county utilize video arraignment and conferencing?	Yes
a. If yes, how many courtrooms have video arraignment and conferencing capabilities?	3
b. What type of video arraignment system do you utilize (i.e. BIS, Zoom)?	Zoom - Courtcall
c. Can your county consistently connect with TDOC facilities for virtual proceedings?	Yes
d. If you cannot consistently connect with TDOC facilities, would doing so decrease the amount of inmate transfers to your county?	Yes
2. Does your county utilize video conferencing for hearings, conferences, and other types of judicial proceedings (not just criminal court)?	Yes
a. If yes, how many courtrooms have the capability to hold video conference proceedings?	3
b. What type of video conferencing systems do you utilize?	Courtcall
c. Does your county need additional or upgraded video conferencing capabilities for judicial proceedings?	No



Please list any security measures that you have taken to improve your facilities and/or to protect personnel between **December 1, 2021 and November 30, 2022.**

We have added new security measures by adding additional staffing when two or three courts are in session. We pull post certified administration officers to work in the courts when we are holding courts. This keeps visual presence in our courthouse. We have sent all court security officers to court training and they have attended our in house in-service as well.

Please describe any recent court security incidents in your county or unique court security issues facing your county.

We have not had any incidents in our courts during this period and our system appears to be working at this moment. We will continue to work for the safety of our courts and people attending.

Please explain if and how security staffing issues have impacted court security in your county.

We could always use one or two more officers to complete our court security but funding is the issue. We have adapted to training and using other resources to complete our safety protocols.

What are your highest priority needs related to improving court security in your county?

The county is intending on moving all offices out of the courthouse and annex. They are moving to another building in the next 24 months. We plan to lock the courthouse and annex completely down and implementing higher security measures to keep the courts safe. This will be very helpful and we will control everything upon entrance. We also need to hire at least two more officers and this would help our system. Part-time would really help so we can start there.



2022
COUNTY COURTROOM SECURITY REPORT

Please include the name of the PERSON preparing this report, the COUNTY that you represent, and your full contact information.

This report was prepared by: Sheriff C.J. Ball
Date: 01/10/2023
Please print title: Sheriff
County: Cocke
Telephone Number: 423-623-6004
Email Address: cj.ball@cockecounytn.gov

**Please return this form by email, fax, or mail
no later than January 6, 2023 to:**

Barbara Peck
Administrative Office of the Courts
Nashville City Center
511 Union Street, Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37219
Phone – (615) 741-2687 Ext. 1090
Fax – (615) 741-6285
Email – barbara.peck@tncourts.gov