



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: Timothy Scott

Date: 12-12-24

Please print title: Deputy Sheriff SERGEANT

County: Giles

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Email Address: tscott@gilessd.com

**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](mailto:barbara.peck@tncourts.gov)



### SILENT BENCH PANIC BUTTONS (MCSS #1)

1. Number of courtrooms equipped with a silent bench panic button connected to law enforcement. (NON FUNCTIONING)	0
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. NON FUNCTION	0
a. Number of court clerk public transaction counters equipped with a silent bench panic button connected to law enforcement. NON FUNCTIONING	0

### 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.	0

### COURT OFFICERS (MCSS #3 and #4)

1. Is an armed, uniformed guard in each courtroom during court?	yes
a. If no, is a court officer available in the courthouse?	
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?	2 of 4 did court specific
a. If no, how often do court officers in your county attend training?	Annual Inservice
5. Have the judicial staff and courthouse personnel from your county attended a court security briefing in 2022?	No

### 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.	1
3. Does your county have sufficient security staff to operate magnetometers during regular business hours?	No



**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?	

**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?	2
b. What type of video arraignment system do you utilize (i.e. BIS, Zoom)?	Zoom
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?	
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?	Zoom
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.**

None. Measures have actually diminished in the previous year. Due to fire hazards and handicap accessibility multiple entry points are accessible to the public. Lack of manpower and equipment make it impossible to screen individuals entering the building. Due to the fact that people may 'feel' targeted no one is screened if all can't be screened.

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

There are regular incidents in which people are arrested. Such situations are common. Incidents cannot always be predicted and can occur at any time. We may interact with a subject that may fight, run, be held in contempt, commit a crime, or need to be removed. When trouble comes we need the people here every day dedicated to these duties. Recently we had an issue regarding a service/support dog not allowed. The animal was described as an emotional support dog. A complaint was filed.

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

Staffing issues are over burdensome. We are regularly called to assist with many other duties at the Sheriff's Office. Our primary duties are to secure the court rooms. Yet we have to transport prisoners, guard prisoners, transport mental patients, and fill in other areas. We (court officers) can't do what we are responsible for while performing these other tasks. Our department needs adequate transport officers to carry inmates and mental patients. We need adequate corrections personnel so that we don't have to sit with inmates in the hospital. Our court house people need to be here every day. It can be unpredictable when trouble will occur. If we are having to fill gaps and trouble happens it would have terrible consequences.

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

People  
Training  
Equipment