



2022

COUNTY COURTHOUSE 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

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| 1. How many courthouses are in your county, including criminal justice centers with courtrooms? | 2 |
| <p>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?)</p> <p>Circuit Court, Chancery Court, General Sessions, and Juvenile Courts are all held at the Courthouse.</p> <p>Due to the tornado in December of 2021 and the destruction of the local City Hall in Dresden, the City of Dresden is currently using the Courthouse for City Court also.</p> <p>The Weakley County Detention Center (Sheriff's Department) also has a Court room where General Sessions arraignments and other matters involving inmates are heard.</p> | |
| 2. Number of courtrooms used only for state Circuit Court, state Criminal Court, Chancery Court, or Probate Court. | 3 |
| 3. Number of courtrooms used only for General Sessions Court and/or Juvenile Court. | 3 |
| 4. Number of courtrooms used for both state court and county courts. | 4 |
| 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). | 1-used for county commission mtgs only |
| 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> | 4 |



SILENT BENCH PANIC BUTTONS (MCSS #1)

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| 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. | 15 |
| a. Number of court clerk public transaction counters equipped with a silent bench panic button connected to law enforcement. | 3 (1 per office not individual clerks) |

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

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| 1. Number of courtrooms equipped with a bullet-proof bench. | 4 |
| 2. Number of courtrooms with bullet-proof court clerk work area. | 4 |

COURT OFFICERS (MCSS #3 and #4)

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| 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) | Dedicated court officers the majority of the time. We do have a mix occasionally. |
| 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? | yes |
| a. If no, how often do court officers in your county attend training? | |
| 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)

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| 1. Total number of hand-held detectors in your county courthouse(s). | 3 |
| 2. Total number of stand-alone magnetometers in each county courthouse. | 3 but are not currently in use |
| 3. Does your county have sufficient security staff to operate magnetometers during regular business hours? | no |

SIGNAGE (MCSS # 6)

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| 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)

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

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

VIDEO ARRAIGNMENT & CONFERENCING

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| 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)? | BIS |
| c. Can your county consistently connect with TDOC facilities for virtual proceedings? | no |
| d. If you cannot consistently connect with TDOC facilities, would doing | yes |



| | |
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| 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)? | Rarely |
| a. If yes, how many courtrooms have the capability to hold video conference proceedings? | 2 |
| b. What type of video conferencing systems do you utilize? | BIS video in 2 of the Courtrooms – Zoom in Judge’s office |
| c. Does your county need additional or upgraded video conferencing capabilities for judicial proceedings? | yes |

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.**

The Sheriff has dedicated 4 officers as Courthouse Security from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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

We have had a defendant run from the Courtroom, down the stairs, and out the door. He had to be tased outside the Courthouse.

We have had several defendants with medical needs that the deputies have had to step in and help with.

We are beginning to see more sovereign citizens. Not always, but a lot of times the need for an officer is there during these hearings and appearances.

We have had several unruly people in and out of the court rooms. (In the Clerk’s office more than the Courtrooms.) The officers have been needed to deescalate the situations and have had to escort some out and have arrested one.



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

We do not have enough security staff to man the stand-alone magnetometers.
Court transports interfere with officers who are supposed to be working Court hearings.

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

Personnel
Security equipment – panic buttons
Updated video system



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: Courtney McMinn

Date: 1/05/2023

Please print title: Circuit Court Clerk

County: Weakley County

Telephone Number: 731-364-3455

Email Address: courtney.mcminn@tncourts.gov

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

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