

BUERGER, MOSELEY & CARSON, PLC

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December 14, 2022

Via email Barbara.Peck@tncourts.gov

Barbara Peck
Administrative Office of the Courts
Nashville City Center
511 Union Street, Suite 600
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Re: Court Security Report for Williamson County

Dear Ms. Peck:

I am one of the Williamson County attorneys. Attached please find the Court Security Report for Williamson County, Tennessee. For clarification purposes, I have outlined a few additional comments related to some of our responses below.

1. In the past, I recall a question related to city courts with General Sessions jurisdiction. I did not see such a question on the form this year. While Fairview City Court does operate a court with general sessions jurisdiction, it is not housed in a Williamson County building nor staffed by Williamson County personnel. Accordingly, it is not included in the statistical information on the form.
2. We have not yet had a court security committee meeting this year, but one has been scheduled for February 7 and the Committee will make a timely report to the County Commission accordingly.
3. Williamson County has answered "yes" to the question related to additional or upgraded video conferencing capabilities. I just wanted to clarify that we currently do have sufficient capability to meet our minimum requirements. However, we believe that additional and/or upgraded capability will continue to be a need in the future as we seek to make our courts safer and more efficient.

If you require anything further from Williamson County at this time, please do not hesitate to contact either Sgt. Cleve Johnson or me.

Sincerely,

BUERGER, MOSELEY & CARSON, PLC


Lisa M. Carson



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?	3
<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 and General Sessions Court are all held in the Judicial Center. Circuit Court and Chancery Court are also held in the Historic Courthouse. Juvenile Court is held in the Juvenile Court Facility.</p>	
2. Number of courtrooms used only for state Circuit Court, state Criminal Court, Chancery Court, or Probate Court.	4
3. Number of courtrooms used only for General Sessions Court and/or Juvenile Court.	4
4. Number of courtrooms used for both state court and county courts.	0
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>	8



SILENT BENCH PANIC BUTTONS (MCSS #1)

1. Number of courtrooms equipped with a silent bench panic button connected to law enforcement.	8
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.	6
a. Number of court clerk public transaction counters equipped with a silent bench panic button connected to law enforcement.	6

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

1. Number of courtrooms equipped with a bullet-proof bench.	8
2. Number of courtrooms with bullet-proof court clerk work area.	8

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)	Mix (Court Officers plus On-Duty Law Enforcement)
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)

1. Total number of hand-held detectors in your county courthouse(s).	6
2. Total number of stand-alone magnetometers in each county courthouse.	1 in each
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?	Mtg 2/7/23

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?	5
b. What type of video arraignment system do you utilize (i.e. BIS, Zoom)?	Zoom & Polycom
c. Can your county consistently connect with TDOC facilities for virtual proceedings?	No
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?	5
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?	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.**

New intercom and camera system was added for Circuit Judges' chambers.

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

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

We have been understaffed for the past year and really struggle at times to be able to cover all the proceedings in three different buildings. We have had to ask for help from our Warrants Division at times to be able to cover all of the Courtrooms and Security Checkpoints.

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

Staffing. We are in the process of trying to hire additional deputies to work in the Court Services Division to improve staffing.



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: Cleve Johnson
Date: 12/12/2022
Please print title: Sergeant
County: Williamson
Telephone Number: 615-790-5431
Email Address: cleve.johnson@williamsoncounty-tn.gov

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

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Nashville City Center
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Nashville, TN 37219
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