

Court and Personal Security TMJC

Brian Grisham



1



2

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

1. 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

3

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

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

4

Additional Security Recommendations

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

5

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

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

6

Weapons

- **§39-17-1306. Carrying weapons during judicial proceedings.**
- No person shall intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carry on or about the person while inside any building in which judicial proceedings are in progress any weapon prohibited by § 39-17-1302(a), for the purpose of going armed; provided, that if the weapon carried is a firearm, the person is in violation of this section regardless of whether such weapon is carried for the purpose of going armed.
- Any person violating subsection (a) commits a Class E felony.
- Some Exceptions
- **General Weapons Statutes**
 - Posting
 - Permits
 - Different types of weapons

7

Statistics

- Docket
- Any court
- Aggressor
- Victim
- Weapons

8

Procedures

- Separation of litigants from bench
- Proper utilization of court officers
- Security of clerks offices
 - Technology
 - Emergency communication
 - Separation of public from clerks

9

Personal Security

- What to watch for
- What to do during an incident
- What to do long-term



10

Threats and Communications

Prevention

- Judicial profile papers kept current and on file
- Communicate with law enforcement
- Alter routes of travel, times of departure and arrival
- Be cognizant of your surroundings
- Be alert

11

Court Proceedings

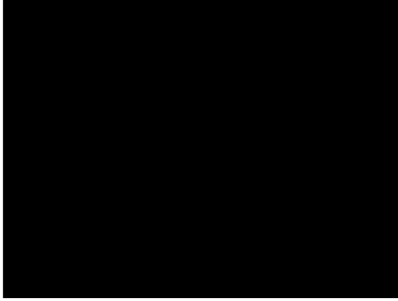
Sovereign Citizen Strategies

- Courtroom Playbook
- Three-Ring Circus
- Religious card played hoping to cause pause



12

Sovereign Citizens



13

Effective Counter Strategies Judiciary-Professional

- Control Courtroom
- Discuss strategies and your preferences with court or security officers
- Civil contempt
- Dismiss baseless motions without delay
- Enforce Rules of Evidence
- Keep proceeding moving forward—not recess, dismiss or resetting for another judge



14

Effective Counter Strategies Judiciary-Professional

- Expect law enforcement to have dealt with them firmly if they are doing their job
- Have clerk share documents and individual information with LE—TBI or DHS



15

Effective Counter Strategies

Judiciary-Personal

- If you deal with them, periodically check your credit
- Realize hierarchy will be frivolously sued and liens filed so notify and communicate
- Title search periodically
- Bring false liens or lawsuits to the attention of the AG or county attorney
- Check your public records documents TCA §10-7-504
- Utilize appropriate criminal charges



16

Just a note on First Amendment Auditors

- Usually film public officials or employees to hold them accountable or "test" their right to film in public spaces
- The public space "passes" the test if the audit is uneventful.
- It fails the test if a public employee confronts the person filming — or "auditor" — attempts to stop them from filming, threatens them with arrest, or removes them from the public space.
- First Amendment audit videos are often posted to YouTube
- The audits themselves have become a form of activism, with proponents saying that they promote transparency and open government.

17

Questions



briangrisham@iadlest.org
(615) 330-4064

18
