

MINIMUM COURTROOM SECURITY STANDARDS

The Tennessee Judicial Conference and the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference being duly concerned with the health, welfare and the lives of court personnel, litigants and the general public have adopted the following minimum security standards and procedures to promote the security and safety of the members of the judiciary, court personnel and the public.

The cost and installation of such standards and procedures is more than offset by the security and protection it offers against bodily injury, loss of life and destruction of property.

MINIMUM COURTROOM SECURITY STANDARDS

1. Silent bench panic button connected directly to the sheriff s department or police department.
2. A bullet-proof bench.
3. Availability of an armed uniformed guard (court officer) in each courtroom during court sessions.
4. Court security training sessions for court officers.
5. Hand-held detectors (minimum of 2) and/or magnetometers in each county to assure the safety in each courthouse or courtroom.

MINIMUM COURT SECURITY PROCEDURES

1. Contact liaison on court security in the state court administrator's office for information on court security.
2. Conduct periodic security evaluations in each courtroom.
3. Prior to any new courtroom construction or courtroom renovation, the state court administrator should be consulted on matters relating to court security.
4. Medical and family data on each judge to be kept in the clerk's office including blood type, allergies or reactions to medication and any other type of medical problems that should be known in case of an emergency, and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the next of kin.
5. An emergency procedures plan for each courtroom and judge's chambers for incidents involving hostage taking, fires, bomb threats, general evacuation and power failure or other sudden emergencies to be made known to all court personnel.

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6. Establish a courtroom security plan that covers everything from firearm exhibits to who has courtroom keys.
7. Establish well defined procedures for the transportation and handling of prisoners. The transportation of prisoners through areas where the public is present should be avoided. A holding cell should be provided convenient to the courtroom if the jail is not convenient.
8. A mobile security plan or team should be available for trials that are perceived as being extremely high risk.
9. All judicial staff employees should receive an orientation on court security procedures.

Adopted this 5th day of December, 1992 - Tennessee Judicial Conference.

Adopted this 17th day of February, 1993 - Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference