

Courthouse Security



"The Fundamental duty of Court Security is the provisioning of a safe and secure work environment for the court, its officers, employees and patrons. This is accomplished through the dedicated efforts of trained, certified and empowered public sector security professionals, recognized as national leaders in court security."

Judicial Branch Security Director
William J Duffy
Maricopa County, Arizona

Court Security Responsibilities

A sheriff's office has various responsibilities related to the security of the courts and the courthouse. Those responsibilities may vary from circuit court to circuit court depending on the classification of the county and other conditions established by statutory law. Jason Shackles will provide an overview of the sheriff's responsibilities related to court security and the statutory laws dictating those responsibilities. Jason Shackles will also provide an overview of common best practices used by sheriff's offices and court marshals necessary to carry out those duties.

Look familiar? Hope not.



Objectives taught in this class.

- Identify common terms of the court.
- Define Bailiff, Marshal, Deputy Sheriff and their requirements for training.
- Levels of court.
- Understand court security can restrict access to the courts to deter and prevent violence.
- Understand bailiff/security responsibility during trial.
- Understand Judicial threat management.
- Have an understanding of bomb threat management.

What is the sheriff statutorily required to provide?

- Rsmo 57.20 Deputies may perform any of the duties prescribed by law to the Sheriff.
- RSMO 57.100 Every Sheriff shall execute all process directed to them by legal authority, including writs of replevin, attachments and final process issued by circuit and associate court.
- RSMO 57.090 Sheriffs shall attend each division of the circuit court presided over by the circuit or associate circuit court. When directed by the court.

Common terms for Court Security

- Deputy Sheriff
- Bailiff
- Circuit Court Marshal

Sheriff's Deputy

- Sheriff's Deputy Requirements (11 CSR 75-13.020)
- 21 years of age or older
- A United States citizen
- Resident of the state or adjoining (Rsmo 57.117)
- Hold a valid high school diploma or its equivalent
- Possess a valid Peace Officer License

Bailiff

Modern Definition:

"A court officer or attendant who has charge of a court session in the matter of keeping order, custody of the jury, and custody of prisoners while in the court."



Bailiff Training

There are NO training requirements currently in the state of Missouri for bailiff.

Marshal

Marshal is used for various kinds of law enforcement officers in the United States.

- ❖ A security police service answerable to the court.
- ❖ One who aids the presiding judge in the administration of the judicial business.

Marshal requirements

- Have at least five years of law enforcement experience.
- Attend a court security training school operated by the U.S. Marshal Service.
- In addition to the above, a Court Marshal may serve process, wear a firearm and make arrests based upon local court rules and state law as directed by the presiding Judge.

Why we train our Bailiffs and Court Security!

- Enforce law, ordinance, rules
- Authorize entry/exit
- Escort prisoners
- Monitor order of the court
- Patrol/guard the premises
- Recognize public safety hazards
- Communicate details in protective service
- Explain policy, rules or regulations
- Monitor entrance and exits
- Use written and oral communications

Knowledge of our court system

Two Distinct Court Systems

Federal
State



Three layers of courts

Does your bailiff and court security officers know the three layers of courts?

- 1. Trial courts, where cases start
- 2. Intermediate (appellate) courts, where most appeals are first heard
- 3. Courts of last resort (usually called Supreme Courts), which hear further appeals and have final authority in the cases they hear.

What *Types* of cases are heard where?

- Federal**
- Constitutionally of a Law
 - Laws & Treaties of the U.S.
 - Ambassadors & Public Ministers
 - Disputes between States
 - Bankruptcy
 - Federal Criminal Violations

- State**
- Most criminal cases
 - Probate cases
 - Contract cases
 - Torts
 - Personal Injury
 - Divorce, Adoptions, etc.



Common terms of the Court

- Bailiff
- Circuit Court Marshal
- Court Marshal
- Defendant
- Docket
- Judge
- Juror

- Jury
- The Bar
- The Bench
- The Court
- Sequester
- Voir Dire

Who controls the access to the Court House?

Commissioner and Presiding Judge

<p style="text-align: center;">Commissioner</p> <p>The County Commission shall have control and management of property real and personal belonging to the county. They may set regulations in regards to the use of property, time of operation, condition, use and regulation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Presiding Judge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May issue local court orders/rules • Establish security procedures • Limit what is and is not allowed in the courthouse or on it's grounds.
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How you limit access to the court

- Access to the building can be limited for the safety of the proceedings and daily operation.
- You may restrict/prohibit certain items (guns, knives, water bottles, umbrella-just to name a few)
- The court can require a dress code for both the court, lobby and the corridors of the court house, *Sefick V Gardner*.
- Limit entrance and exits to the building.
- Use signs telling people they are subject to search.
- Utilize administrative searches (x-ray machine, metal detectors, wand and stationary pat searches)
- Closed circuit T.V.

Security station location

Post signage at all entrance informing the public they are prohibited from carrying weapons and are subject to search.
Place your security check points at locations where traffic can be funneled down, which makes administrative search easier to control.

What type of security do you have? Is it enough?



Why you want to limit access.

The following slides will show some of the common contraband found in courtrooms.









Bailiffs responsibilities during Jury process

Where do the rules for the bailiff come from?

- The local Judge
- The locale Court en Banc
- State code requirements
- Missouri Supreme Court Rules

Bailiff duties

- Jury orientation is normally the duty of the Judge; however the bailiff is the liaison between the Judge and the Jury.
- The Bailiff is responsible for the monitoring of the jury for medical issues and security for those jurors whom have unknown medical issues.
- During site visits the bailiff is responsible for escorting the jury, ensuring no one talks about the case or allow outside influence on the jury. A court appointed person will show the site.

Bailiff duties cont.

Once closing arguments are finished and Judicial instruction is completed the jury is placed in the bailiffs charge. He will keep them together for deliberation day and night if necessary. The bailiff also abides by the communications restrictions.



Emergency Evacuation of Jurors

If the judge is not available, bailiffs should act on their own, notifying their superiors and the judge as soon as possible.

Storage and Management of Exhibits



Storage of Exhibits During Trial

When storing exhibits during trial consider using the following procedures:

- Keep exhibits in a secure area
- Secured storage is not available
- Oversized exhibits
- Denied or withheld exhibits

Managing and Disposing of Exhibits after Trial

When storing exhibits after trial understand whose responsibility it is, depending on the type of trial.

- Civil and family trials = the person presenting the exhibit
- Criminal trials = in most cases, the prosecutors investigator
- Drugs, weapons, and ammunition = would normally be turned back over to the prosecution or evidence officer

Firearms as Exhibits in the Courtroom



Non-exhibit Weapons of Opportunity

1. Judge's nameplate
2. Pencil or pen at counsel table
3. Judge's gavel
4. Stapler
5. Sign and holder on counsel table: "Do Not Place Briefcases on Table"
6. Scissors
7. Letter opener
8. Microphone/cord and electrical cord
9. Large pointed objects such as clothes trees, flagpole eagles and points
10. Defendant's chair.



Judicial Threat Management process

10 Golden Rules for Effective Threat Management

1. Recognize the need for a judicial threat management process
2. Assign responsibility of managing cases to trained threat managers
3. Provide training for and establish liaison with protectees and court staff

10 rules continued

- 4. Create an incident tracking system with well documented files
- 5. Establish liaison with other agencies
- 6. Use consistent and valid judicial threat assessment methods
- 7. Conduct thorough fact finding

10 rules continued

- 8. Apply judicial threat management strategies flexibly and intelligently
- 9. Communicate with protectees in a professional, confident and competent manner
- 10. Manage cases appropriately

Bomb Threat Management

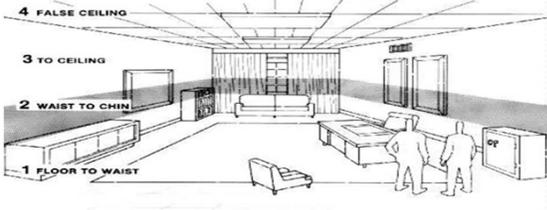
There are agencies which offer training on bomb threats and bombs; when was the last time you sent your Bailiffs and Court Security through a bomb incident training?

Responding to Bomb Threat: Decision to Evacuate – *Do you have someone you are confident in, to make this decision?*

The most serious of all decisions to be made in the event of a bomb threat is whether to evacuate the building.



Search Techniques will be given.



Physical Security Planning

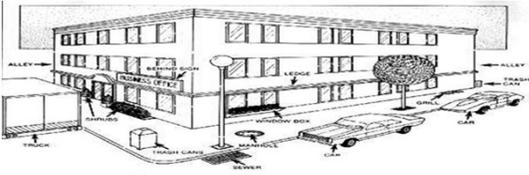
FIRE EXTINGUISHER DEVICE



- FEATURES:
- HALF POUND BAG OF C-4
- ELECTRIC BLASTING CAP
- DIGITAL COUNTDOWN TIMER



Is it being done? Observing/walking around the perimeter of the Court House.



Boom...

It's that simple.



Remember this day?



Closing

- In closing I want to stress no matter what size the county, from the largest where each section of the court is manned by its own group or the smallest county where the Bailiff must to be the best of their ability cover not only the court room but all aspects of the court house. It is not only necessary but essential our court personnel receive up to date relevant training!