

**From:** [Brit Weber](#)  
**To:** [ADMcomment](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Local Courthouse Security Committees  
**Date:** Friday, October 05, 2018 11:45:44 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support the mandating of each Michigan courthouse forming a security committee!

My background originated in law enforcement (Michigan State Police and oversees in Kosovo) followed by working in public and private sectors as consultant/instructor specializing in crime prevention, security, criminal justice, critical incident management and governmental-business collaboration on preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery. Equally, since 2002, I have taught workshops on and performed numerous risk/threat/vulnerability assessments on public and private sector facilities, including courthouses, jails, police stations, city halls and similar entities.

I'm positive that the research/questioning of staff, vendors, visitors and users would identify numerous gaps and shortfalls in local courthouse security across the state. However, what has always been the problem with establishing courthouse security has generally been a judge, court administrator or other key person in a facility refusing to implement various common-sense techniques, procedures, policies and/or hardware. Equally, costs and resources are also a concern when looking to strengthen courthouse security.

I believe that the first step of preparedness in courthouse security is the formation of a security committee that should include at least one sitting judge, court administrator, clerical staff, security staff, facility manager and from the areas in the courthouse of staff who deals with the public and staff who routinely handles money transactions. Though magistrates could also sit on the committee they should not be allowed to take the position of the judge slot on the committee.

If a security committee is mandated on all courthouses versus recommended by the state, than annually each courthouse should complete a form that lists committee members that is sent to the state court administrative office. Equally, on the form it should list the number of expected meetings for the upcoming year. Also, it should list the previous year's total number of expected meetings and also the actual number of meetings that were held. Plus, it should list the designated names and job titles of committee members. The state could also supply a tentative agenda of topics that are typically discussed and acted on at the local level. My assumption is that the state would also provide the reasons why a courthouse must have a security committee.

If the state doesn't want to mandate certain actions be taken, such as hiring of security and/or implementation of hardware and software but leave this to the local level than the follow-up question becomes should the local level also send either their committee minutes or list of key actions to the state annually? I suspect that the more information that would have to be sent in annually to the state by each courthouse that this reporting mandate would hopefully create an impetus to further enhance those weak areas throughout the state.

On a personal level, as a former law enforcement officer, I've been in many courthouses and seen the lack of security. Equally, when doing risk assessments of courthouse facilities, I

recall times when the courthouse overall's security was reasonable but yet, there would be a judge who doesn't like security thus leaving his/her courtroom vulnerable. Of course, there are those other occasions when certain departments within a courthouse are vulnerable, which is usually because either: department manager isn't interested; lack of importance in following procedures leading to apathy; unawareness of more up-to-date and cost effective solutions that could be implemented; conflicting opinions by key staff on the importance and/or how to; and, so on.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer just a few thoughts. Of course, on this topic one can easily drill down much deeper, which I assume would be done at the stage of formalizing that all courthouses shall have a security committee.

If I can be of other assistance, feel free to contact me anytime.

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