



Legal and Liability Risk Management Institute  
700 N. Carr Rd., # 595 Plainfield, IN 46168  
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## Court Security Critical Incident & Emergency Planning For Courts

### Instructor: Rick Baker

Rick Baker, Lieutenant (Retired) Putnam County Sheriff's Office • Cookeville, Tennessee  
Rick is President of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Officers Association. Retired Lieutenant from Putnam County Sheriff's Office, Cookeville, Tennessee. Rick has spent time lecturing and teaching officers, court clerks, Court Officers, and elected officials. He has lectured and taught at numerous national and state conferences. Throughout his 27-year law enforcement career, Rick has supervised Corrections, Patrol, Training, and SWAT, as well as, providing specialized training to other agencies. Rick has been called on as an expert witness in several court cases. Rick received his Bachelor of Science from Lee University and his Master's in criminal justice management from Columbus University. Rick holds numerous training, instructor, and specialized certifications. He has been the coordinator for the Academy, Instructor Development, Ethics, and Leadership. Rick is currently the National Training Director for the Legal and Liability Risk Management Institute, Coordinator with LLRMI and the FBINAA Leadership Certification.

### Course Overview

Government buildings continue to be a target, just turn on the news! Courthouses and courtrooms are especially vulnerable targets due to the fact they are not only government facilities but also where our criminal justice system operates. With many potential targets utilizing the courthouse daily, including defendants, victims, family, and domestic parties, judges, and numerous county officials, disruptions are on the rise.

Courthouse/courtroom incidents range from minor disruptions such as picketing to physical assault and even murder. Regardless of your experience, there is no assurance that violence will not happen in your court. The question is not "if it will happen but when?"

### Course Objectives:

**Violent Court Incidents/Case Studies** – By examining in detail past court incidents and case studies, students will be able to begin the process of assessing their own courtroom, courthouse, parking lots, grounds, and current security systems and protocols.

**Legal Issues of Courtroom/Courthouse Security** – This session will cover case law in order to prepare each student with a working knowledge of what they "can" and "can't" do legally.

**Overview of Courtroom Security** – This session will cover and discuss profiles of those involved in courtroom/courthouse incidents, various stages of the proceeding in which incidents and disruptions are more likely to occur, and prepare the students with a background in statistics to better prepare them for potential incidents.

**Daily Operational Concerns for Courtroom/Courthouse Security** – By examining the "5 Elements of Courthouse/Courtroom Security" a foundation for security begins to develop with court security personnel, court tenants, policies and procedures, and the securing of the physical facility.



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**Prisoner/Defendant Security** – This session will cover how to prepare for and minimize disruptions from in-custody defendants, transportation pitfalls, various restraints, communications, searches, juveniles, and a myriad of topics dealing with court appearances.

**High Risk/Critical Situations** – This session will be devoted to high-risk trials, sequestered juries, protests, and many other situations that which there is time to prepare, implement and execute an appropriate plan to mitigate the risks.

**Bomb Threats/Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies** – There is the potential for a wide variety of emergency situations to arise at a courthouse, oftentimes with little or no warning. This session gives the students an overview of potential problems and prepares them with plans and procedures to implement to properly prepare for these types of emergency situations.

**Sovereign Citizens** – This session will give an overview to all students of the potential issues and the tactics used by sovereign citizens, from simple disruptions to dangerous life-threatening situations.

**Courtroom/Courthouse Survey** – This session will enable the students to return and complete a physical site survey of their courtroom/courthouse. They will receive a sample survey to utilize and/or modify to fit their individual setting. This will also be the basis for requesting additional resources and security personnel.

## DAY ONE

8:30-9 Welcome

9-10 History of Courts

10-11 Legal Considerations of Court Security

11-12 Constitutional Rights of Defendants

- Security for Defendants
- Security for Juvenile Defendants
- Responsible Parties for Court Security
- Local Considerations

1-2 Courtroom and Courthouse Security Case Law

- Legal Restrictions
- Legal Standards

2-3 Overview of Courtroom and Courthouse Security

- Court Security - Overcoming Negative Thinking
- Complacent
- Comfortable
- Catastrophe

3-4 Court Security Definition

4-5 Court Security Standards

- Standard Operating Procedures
- Security Plan
- Security Audits
- Security Personnel & Staffing

## DAY TWO

8-9 Court Security Requiring Court Orders

9-10 Local Government Considerations



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10-11 Five Elements of Courtroom/Courthouse Security

11-12 Types of Threats or Incidents

- Identifying the Threat
- Assessing the Threat
- Investigating the Threat
- Managing the Threat
- Aftermath and Dealing with the Threat
  - Incident Report

1-2 Tactical Approach to Areas of the Courtroom

- Danger Areas
- Location of Attacks
- Times of Attack
- Where Attacks May Occur

2-3 Who Are Assailants

- How Assailants Attack
- Weapons Used in Attacks
- Motivation For Attacks
- Types of Cases When Attacks May Occur
- Characteristics of Attacks
- Attackers Intent

3-4 Courthouse Security Equipment

4-5 Prisoner Transportation

- Handling Procedures for Inmates
- Handling Procedures for Transport of Inmates
- Handling Procedures for Juveniles