



COURT SECURITY DIVISION TRAINING COURSES

The Texas Office of Court Administration's Court Security Division serves as a dedicated resource for the Texas Judicial Branch, offering judicial officer and staff trainings that are primarily tailored to trial court needs. All presentations offered can be tailored for both content and time to fit the needs of individual courts and are presented on-site. Courts opt to have several topics covered during one class. Court Security Division staff work to ensure each court acquires the material needed. This program assists in keeping judicial branch staff, visitors, and facilities safe by providing training that is not available to the Texas trial courts via other sources. Finally, all classes are offered to the trial courts at no cost. Classes are described below.

Course Descriptions

Active Shooter Response

This class looks at past mass casualty incidents and current trends in terrorism/mass casualty incidents. Participants will be given the basic tools they need to survive a mass casualty incident, learning the strategy of "Run, Hide, Fight" and discussing in detail each course of action and how it applies to various scenarios. Participants will also discuss planning, first aid, law enforcement response, and what happens post incident.

Crime Prevention

This class deals with the most common situations where people are susceptible to criminal activity. Street safety, home intruders, safety on the roads & public transit, and general safety/security principles. We will discuss common behaviors of both criminals and victims, the importance of awareness and planning, basic steps to avoid becoming a victim, advice on what to do in the event you are faced with criminal activity, and some tools that can assist survival.

Bomb Threats

This class discusses the reasons most bomb threats are made; the history of bombs & bomb threats in the United States; what an employee should do when they receive a bomb threat, including how to speak with a threatening caller and what questions to ask; the proper response to different kinds of threats; shelter in place, building evacuation & search protocols.

Work-Place Violence

This class looks at violent incidents in the workplace, ways to deal with threatening customers, how an employee/employer can reduce the threat of violence, and how to react when violence does occur.

Evacuation/Shelter in Place Protocol

This class examines both evacuation and shelter in place (SIP) protocol, provides instruction on which course of action is recommended when facing different threats, and assists management personnel in developing emergency plans and making the decision on whether to evacuate or SIP.

Preparing for the Emergency

This class focuses not on the specific emergency, but on general personal, family, and household preparedness. Emergency planning, family drills, necessary supplies, and other things that you can do to be prepared to face the emergency, wherever and whenever you face it.

Mail Screening/Mailroom Security

Package bombs, mysterious powders, boxes that “tick.” This class gives mailroom staff the tools they need to spot suspicious packages before their contents become a threat, and best practices on how to secure the mail room.

Courtroom/Courthouse Security

Texas courthouses are a unique environment where victims, defendants, inmates, law enforcement, judges, court staff and the public come together in the same space daily to discuss life altering and controversial topics. This class discusses past incidents at courthouses, security best practices all courts should follow, and guidelines for both preventing and reacting to violence in the courts.

Judicial Officer Security

This class examines past threats/assassinations of judicial officers, the unique threats facing judges and their families, and ways that judges can improve their security posture at home, at work, and on the road to make them less of a target.

“In a moment of decision, the best you can do is the right thing. The next best thing is the wrong thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing.” -Theodore Roosevelt

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