

Courthouse Security

900.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that this office provides appropriate courthouse security.

900.2 POLICY

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will provide security in the Montgomery County courthouse, all courtrooms and judicial areas, in order to protect the integrity of the court, protect the rights and safety of individuals before it, deter those who would take adverse action against the court or its participants and to maintain the decorum of the court.

900.3 DEFINITIONS

Bailiff: A sworn Deputy Sheriff who is assigned to the courthouse function for the purposes of maintaining the security and integrity of the judicial process including maintaining order in the court, carrying out the directives of the judicial officials, assisting with the jury, enforcing the laws of the state of North Carolina, moving inmates and detainees to and from proceedings and protecting courthouse staff from harm.

Inmate/Detainee: A person who has been arrested, detained, in law enforcement custody pending arraignment, release, adjudication or transfer to another facility or jurisdiction. **Holding area:** Any approved locked area, space, or enclosure where an inmate or detainee is secured pending court action.

900.4 COURTHOUSE SECURITY

The security plan for the Montgomery County courthouse shall be maintained as outlined in this policy. The Bailiff Supervisor shall be responsible for the security of all courtrooms and judicial areas of the courthouse.

The Bailiff Supervisor will ensure that each member assigned as a bailiff is knowledgeable of courthouse and courtroom security functions.

Courtrooms will be secured by the assigned bailiff after the court adjourns and during all recess periods.

Public access to the courtrooms and judicial areas during normal business hours shall be restricted. All participants in the business of the court shall go through a screening process for weapons and contraband.

Inmates/detainees shall be brought into the courthouse through controlled and secure doors. The detention area shall be secured and not accessed by unauthorized personnel. Access shall only be gained through judges' order or by the authority of the sheriff's bailiff supervisor or designee.

If an emergency situation develops anywhere within the courthouse, access by non-essential personnel will not be permitted. All non-essential personnel shall be evacuated to a safe area.

