

**RULES OF PRACTICE
OF THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
GENERAL DIVISION**

LOCAL RULE 90. COURTHOUSE SECURITY

90.01 Court Security Generally

Appropriate levels of security must exist in the Court to protect the integrity of Court procedures, protect the rights of persons before it, deter those who would take violent action against such persons or the Court, sustain the proper decorum and dignity of the Court and assure that Court facilities are secure for all those who visit and work there.

90.02 Responsibility to the Sheriff (7-1-17)

The Franklin County Sheriff is primarily responsible for courthouse security within 345 South High Street, and adjacent grounds. Because common entry ways exist in many governmental buildings that are interconnected, the Sheriff shall coordinate overall security arrangements with the security service responsible for the Franklin County Municipal Court building and any other entry points to the courthouse complex.

90.03 Enhanced Screening (7-1-17)

To assure maximum safety and security for all persons using the common pleas courthouse, extra security screening may be employed in connection with high profile trials or proceedings. In such situations, the Sheriff is authorized to require enhanced security procedures, including a requirement that those seeking to enter the vicinity of a courtroom sign-in using their legal name and address, after presenting a government-issued photo identity card. The Sheriff shall consult with the individual judge(s) in such situations to tailor security to the perceived needs of each case,

and minimize inconvenience for members of the public seeking to observe public court proceedings.

90.04 Authority to Close, Evacuate or Restrict Access (7-1-17)

- A.** If threats, overt misconduct, or extreme weather conditions are believed to present a genuine risk to the safety of those using the common pleas courthouse, the Sheriff shall promptly alert both the Executive Director and the Administrative Judge.
- B.** The Administrative Judge and, in his or her absence, the Executive Director in consultation with the Duty Judge, has full authority to close or evacuate the common pleas courthouse, restrict public access, or take other appropriate steps to respond to threats, overt misconduct, or extreme weather conditions.