

# **Court Security**

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## 14-01 COURT SECURITY

Court security has become one of the Michigan Supreme Court's highest priorities. In October 2001, the Supreme Court asked every court to undertake immediate steps to improve their security status. Each court was asked to provide emergency contact information, review current security plans, appoint both a court security coordinator and emergency services coordinator, and cooperate with local emergency management officials.

At the request of the chief justice, the Michigan Emergency Management Act was amended to include the judiciary in the State Emergency Operations Center. These changes formally integrate the judiciary into the state's emergency management structure for both state and local activities. These proposals were incorporated into the antiterrorism legislation enacted in 2002.

In June 2005, the Supreme Court hired its first trial court security specialist. The position is charged with developing security protocols for Michigan trial courts and advising judges and court staff on matters relating to court security and emergency management. As part of the security-related responsibilities, the position conducts threat and risk assessments, performs research and analysis, and provides training for the judiciary and court staff.

The State Court Administrative Office has adopted court security standards and developed a *Michigan Court Security Manual*. The office has also provided training for every court security coordinator in the state. See the standards and resources on the State Court Administrative Office website at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/standards/index.htm#sec>.