

Survey to Chief APOs

Issue: Prisoner Movement Within Courthouse

Question (from Chester County)

We in Chester County have reached a critical level as it pertains to lack of Deputy Sheriff's. It has become common to take 45-60 minutes to get a prisoner from lockup to a courtroom. Besides Wyoming/Sullivan are there any counties that use Probation Officers to assist deputies in:

- 1) the movement of prisoners from lockup to courtrooms and vice versa.
- 2) Active Courtroom Security

If your county does anything close to this, could you let me know so I can get more information.

Adams County

Adams County has not assisted in moving prisoners (we use videoconferencing for a lot of cases). Adams County assisted in this capacity during COVID protocol, when it was in place and Sheriff's staffing was down due staff contracting COVID, but we do not typically assist in this capacity.

Berks County

Berks will escort offenders taken into custody from the seventh floor of our building to the cellblock located in the basement.

We also serve many of our own warrants and will "guard" juveniles who are occasionally in custody in our juvenile court holding area.

Blair County

Blair helps as needed. Mostly with security at the main entrance of the courthouse.

Bradford County

We have not run into this issue in Bradford County. Sheriffs fulfill both duties without assistance. The Sheriff and one Commissioner are tight. They are better paid and overstaffed.... annoyingly overstaffed. If I could send some your way I would happily do so!

Cambria County

Cambria County does not assist with transports. However, we have a great relationship with our Sheriffs Dept and would help out in any way possible.

Carbon County

Is similar to Columbia County

Centre County

Centre County does not assist in courtroom security. However, our PO's transport all offenders regarding revocation proceedings.

Clinton County

Clinton County Probation does not assist in prisoner movement to courtroom or security. We are occasionally requested to assist with a long transport for a defendant that is picked up on a bench warrant.

Columbia & Montour County

In Columbia/ Montour Counties we simply have a professional agreement to help out when needed if I have Officers available to do so. We also at times will assist with transports if needed and vice versa. It works well for us and our Sheriff's Department.

Cumberland County

Cumberland does not. A few years ago, the county built a courtroom at the jail which allows a judge to go their rather than transporting inmates from the jail to the courthouse. Primarily used for pretrial conference days. Otherwise, the judiciary uses video conferencing frequently to limit the need for transport.

Erie County

In Erie County, we have been asked to cover on occasion courtroom security, and hospital duty when the sheriffs are short staffed.

Fayette County

No and no in Fayette. Officers have it hard enough finding time to manage their caseloads.

Franklin County

Franklin: We have helped when there are staffing issues with arrestee hospital details over the weekends, and covered courtroom security a few times for a Sheriff's Dept employee funeral.

Huntingdon County

In Northumberland County our Sheriff's office is not understaffed, however we still do Court transports occasionally and some Courtroom security duties as well. We do all our own arrests and transports and often do transports on bench warrants as well.

Jefferson County

Jefferson County Probation has taken over Sheriff's transport duties for all warrant extraditions and inmate hospital call-outs. Sheriff Deputies are still responsible for inmate transports during normal business hours – which we also assist with, when needed; otherwise, we handle it. This obviously amounts to a lot of OT for POs, which helps offset the below-average hourly wages.

Juniata County

With the prior sheriff, Probation and the Sheriff Department worked well together and helped each other out as needed. With the new Sheriff, he burned all his bridges in the beginning with PSP, Magistrates, Judge, Probation, Commissioners, etc. so.....NO, not anymore.

Lackawanna County

Lackawanna County does not assist. Sheriff's department is well staffed currently.

Lancaster County

We have not helped with the movement of prisoners within the Courthouse, nor have we provided active courtroom security.

Approximately 11 years ago, we began transporting all of our own detentions from our building to the jail. We occasionally assist the sheriffs with other (domestic relations, FTAs, etc.) transports.

Lebanon County

It has not come to this yet in Lebanon County, but I can see the potential need for discussions in the near future.

Lehigh County

Lehigh Probation Officers are not involved in any courthouse security or movement of prisoners from the jail to the courtroom.

Luzerne County

Our office is not located in the Courthouse. We take offenders into custody if they happen to show up here and there is an active Capias. We verify (and get a hard copy) of the outstanding Capias before taking someone into custody. We will transport directly to the prison after such verification. The Sheriff needs to forward the copy of the Capias to us and we provide such to the prison with the offender.

These scenarios are always reviewed with a supervisor before any action is taken.

If our POs are in Court they may assist only if necessary. The Sheriff's office is "short-handed" here as well but they manage to control things at the Courthouse. Video is utilized when appropriate or scheduled by the Judge.

Lycoming County

Lycoming has assisted with Court security and transport of inmates when needed.

McKean County

Our sheriff's department transports offenders. There is no shortage on deputies.

Mercer County

No shortage in Mercer County. Mercer also utilizes video conferencing occasionally

Northumberland County

In Northumberland County our Sheriff's office is not understaffed, however we still do Court transports occasionally and some Courtroom security duties as well. We do all our own arrests and transports and often do transports on bench warrants as well.

Philadelphia County

Philadelphia County Probation does not transport offenders to their Gagnon hearings. Sheriff's Dept. is responsible for transporting all offenders to their Gagnon hearings.

Pike County

Currently, no shortage of deputies in Pike. Probation does not assist with transports. Video conferencing is frequently used for hearings.

Snyder County

Snyder is the same as Lycoming

Susquehanna County

We do not. Susquehanna sheriff office staffed at about 50% capacity. Poor wages. Consider using video from jail for hearings. Our Court does. Works fine n saves time n money

Tioga County

Tioga assists occasionally with Court Security and transports at times but not with regularity at the moment. The Sheriff's department is moving toward full complement but has struggled the past few years with retention.

Venango County

In Venango County we help out our Sheriff's Department when needed and when Officers are available. We will assist with security and transports if needed and vice versa. Our Sheriff's Department does not have a female Deputy so we will help out with taking female prisoners to the restroom and assisting with transports that require a female when needed. We have a good relationship with our Sheriff's Department and will conduct training together at different times throughout the year when our schedules work.

Wayne County

We do not assist at any time. No shortage of deputies here either.

Westmoreland County

Westmoreland Probation and Parole does not assist in prisoner movement or courtroom security.

Wyoming & Sullivan County

Wyoming and Sullivan County Probation Officers work well with our Sheriff and Sheriff's Deputies to assist whenever needed with court hearing transports and transports of inmates from one correctional facility to another. We will also do courtroom security when needed. We also do all of our own arrests for warrants, violations, etc. We have also assisted the Sheriff's office with serving their warrants when it has been requested as they have assisted us with serving our warrants when needed.

York County

York does not, nor would I ever want to open the door to that possibility here.