



Kim Vickers
Executive Director

TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agencies/Contract Training Providers
From: Kenny Merchant/Director of Operations, Credentialing and Field Services
Regarding: **Courtroom Security Certification**
Date: March 1, 2019

For several years the Commission has had a Specialty Certification for Courtroom Security. Persons wishing to earn the Certification were required to take a series of 7 separate courses (21001- 21007), totaling 40hrs, have a valid Peace Officer or Jailer License, and then apply for the Certification through the Commission. The Certification is good for 2 years, and is renewed by either completing an Update Course, or by being designated in writing by the agency head as a Courtroom Security Practitioner. The Certification was not mandatory, but was a good idea for those practitioners.

In the 85th Legislative Session, SB 42 was passed, making a Courtroom Security Certificate mandatory for any person who provides security in any Texas court, at any level of court, from Municipal Courts all the way up to the Supreme Court. Persons who were already working courtroom security on the effective date of the Bill- 09/01/2017- had until the end of the 2017- 2019 Training Unit to complete the training. However, persons newly assigned to the task were given 1 year after assignment to complete the training. The term "persons" must be used here, as the Bill required all persons working security, whether civilian or sworn, to complete the training.

Supplying the above 40 hours of training to all of their courtroom security personnel, even those who just occasionally filled in, would have been a huge hardship for many agencies. But a better solution was created. The same volunteer committee that had created the 40hr certification courses created a new 8 hour course, using basic curriculum components pulled from the existing 7 courses. To meet the mandate of SB 42, a person simply has to complete the 8 hour course (10999) and utilize the certificate issued from the class. Of course, if they choose, they may still purchase a Certificate from the Commission, but it is not required. The 8 hour course is available through online Training Providers.

Since the curriculum for the SB 42 mandate course was pulled from the existing Certification process, any person who completes the entire 40 hour Certification is deemed to have met the SB 42 mandate. But- they are 2 separate and distinct trainings, and 2 separate and distinct certificates on your Commission record.