



# news

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## **Rio Grande County Courthouse moves to single point of entry** *Colorado Court Security Commission funds enhanced security measures*

DEL NORTE, Colo. – The Colorado Court Security Commission recently awarded more than \$86,500 in grant funds for 2013 to the Rio Grande County Courthouse in Del Norte. The funds have been used to implement a single point of entry for the courthouse and for two part-time deputies from the Rio Grande County Sheriff’s Office to staff the entrance during normal business hours.

“Courthouse security is of paramount importance in all six of our district’s courthouses,” said 12th Judicial District Chief Judge Pattie Swift. “We are fortunate not to have had any major security incidents in Rio Grande County and these measures will help ensure that remains the case.”

All visitors to the building will now be required to enter through the main entrance on the north side at 925 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Visitors will also be screened by a metal detector and personal items will be scanned by an x-ray machine.

Since 2010, the Colorado Court Security Commission has awarded Rio Grande County just shy of \$260,000 to enhance security measures at the courthouse. The grant awards have been used to provide the metal detector, x-ray machine, duress alarms, sheriff’s deputies, training for personnel, and the infrastructure modifications necessary to move to the single point of entry.

“The Court Security Commission is pleased to make these funds available to Rio Grande County for these needed improvements,” said Steven R. Steadman, Court Security Specialist for the Colorado Judicial Branch. “I commend Chief Judge Swift, Sheriff Brian Norton and County Commissioners Doug Davie and Karla Shriver for recognizing that court security is something that needs to be addressed every day and for taking the steps necessary to ensure that everyone coming to the courthouse has a safe and secure environment in which to conduct their business.”

In 2007, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 07-118, codified at Section 13-1-201 et seq., C.R.S. which provides supplemental funding for courthouse security. That bill created the Court Security Cash Fund and mandated that moneys from the Fund be made available to counties through grants for court security staffing, equipment, and training. Such grants are issued through the State Court Administrator's Office upon recommendation by the Court Security Cash Fund Commission. Funding under the program is available to Colorado Counties only.

More information on the Colorado Court Security Commission can be found at:

<http://www.coloradocourthousesecurity.com/>