



news

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Saguache County Courthouse moves to single point of entry on Sept. 3 *Colorado Court Security Commission funds enhanced security measures*

SAGUACHE, Colo. – The Colorado Court Security Commission recently awarded more than \$56,000 in grant funds for 2013 to the Saguache County Courthouse in Saguache. The funds have been used to implement a single point of entry for the courthouse and for deputies from the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office to staff the entrance during normal business hours. The change is effective, Sept. 3, 2013.

“Providing a safe and secure environment for people to conduct their business in the courthouse is a top priority,” said 12th Judicial District Chief Judge Pattie Swift. “Moving to a single point of entry at the Saguache County Courthouse, as we have done with other courthouses in the 12th Judicial District, will further that goal.”

All visitors to the building will now be required to enter through the main entrance at 501 Fourth 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 Saguache County \$123,935 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 Saguache County for these security enhancements,” said Steven R. Steadman, Court Security Specialist for the Colorado Judicial Branch. “I commend Chief Judge Swift, Sheriff Mike Norris and County Commissioners Linda Joseph, Jason Anderson and Ken Anderson for recognizing that court security is something that needs to be addressed every day.”

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/>