

Department 7 has two small holding areas, one each for men and women. These areas are often loaded beyond their capacity.

Department 8 is located on the ground floor of County Building C and has no metal detector for screening court entry. Department 8 is not a criminal court, but does have family court and traffic court hearings, both potentially volatile situations.

The Court and the Sheriff's Department both wish to improve security in Departments 7 and 8. This would require relocating the metal detection unit upstairs to service both courts. It would also require limiting downstairs access near Department 7 to prevent off-hour access. These efforts have been rebuffed by the county because it would be a hindrance to other county departments and/or citizens who do business in building C.

Departments 3, 4, 11, and 12 are co-located in South Lake Tahoe. Departments 3 and 4 are criminal courts, without a holding cell. Prisoners enter through employee hallways and often must remain in public or employee hallways (albeit with a Sheriff) until called to court.

**Facts**

- 1. MOU for court security expired 2002
- 2. 2006/2007 MOU calls for fixed dollar amount to be paid
- 3. Departments 7 and 8 are in County Building C, which was never built to be a court
- 4. Holding area in Department 7 is often over-crowded
- 5. Department 8 has no metal screening
- 6. Courts in South Lake Tahoe do not have a holding area

**Findings/Recommendations**

**1F. Finding:** Memorandum of Understanding for court security specifies a fixed dollar amount for the year with some provision for changes.

**1F. Response to Finding:** *Respondent agrees with the finding.*

**1R. Recommendation:** All payment requests from the Sheriff for court security should be based on the actual hours the Sheriff spent on court security. Time keeping reports should be provided detailing all hours and other expenditures.

**1R. Response to Recommendation:** *The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.* The court and Sheriff's Office have conceptually agreed upon a 2006/2007 MOU. Final approval of the MOU is expected within 90 days. The MOU specifies a fixed dollar amount paid by the courts for security of the court buildings. Both the courts and sheriff agree to the fixed amount concept. The fixed amount is based upon the courts ability to pay for bailiff and perimeter security staffing. The Sheriff's Office does not charge the courts for workman's comp and liability insurance costs of its personnel; nor does the Sheriff's Office charge for vehicle expense for the car assigned to the court security unit.