



March 11, 2025

Duties-Sheriff

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Duties-Sheriff

Reference Number: CTAS-40

The sheriff is obligated to execute and return, according to law, the process and orders of the courts of record, and of all officers of competent authority, with due diligence, when delivered to the sheriff. The sheriff must attend upon all of the courts held in the county, cause the courtroom to be kept in order and obey the lawful orders and directions of the court. The sheriff also may be ordered to levy execution upon a defendant's property, first upon goods or chattels, if there are any, and land in order to satisfy judgment, and upon a surety's property in the proper case. Many of the sheriff's duties regarding service of process and other matters are detailed in T.C.A. § 8-8-201. The sheriff is charged with the custody and security of the courthouse unless the county legislative body assigns this duty to someone else. T.C.A. § 5-7-108.

Law enforcement duties, jail administration, and workhouse administration are explained in detail under the Public Safety topic.

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/duties-sheriff>