

Personal Safety: Issues and Concerns

Garry Flanary

Basic Safety Preparation

- Mental Awareness
 - Be alert and attentive
- Situational Awareness
 - Be cognizant of the situation you are in, Militia, Mentals
 - 2003 MSP Trooper killed in a stand off
- Case Awareness
 - Be aware of the type of case you are handling
- Location Awareness
 - Can you get help to you if needed

Basic Safety Preparation

- Act Purposefully
 - A person acting with purpose is respected
- Act with Confidence
 - Confidence is key to personal safety
- Posture
 - Carry yourself in a confident manner
- Be Articulate
 - Express yourself in an educated manner

Statistical Facts

- 1980 – 2005 Nationwide
 - 225,000 officers assaulted in domestic cases
 - 37% were non-violent cases. 1% were stand-by
 - 75% were at a domicile
 - 32.9% were in the spring (May)
- Approx 1930 Rural Michigan
 - A sheriff killed during a property execution
- 2002 Livingston County Michigan
 - Defendant suicide upon service of eviction

Statistical Facts

- 2004 Montcalm County Michigan
 - Rifle pulled on a court officer during execution
- 2008 Ingham County Michigan
 - Shotgun pulled on a court officer during eviction
- 2008 Livingston County Michigan
 - C.O. victim of Vehicular Assault by a defendant
- 2008 Jackson County Michigan
 - Civil Deputy met with shotgun during seizure

Self Defense Act

- Public Act 309 of 2006
 - Castle Doctrine
 - Lawful Purpose
- Identity
 - Easily distinguishable as an official
 - Announce your presence
 - Act professionally
 - MCODSA 5-11 Jackets

Working Safely

- Avoid standing directly in front of a door
 - Stand to one side of door
- Position a foot against the storm door
 - Prevents an excited dog from making a dash
- Avoid standing in front of windows
 - Like watching TV for a defendant
- Leave the defendant an “out”
 - Don’t try and “trap” anyone

More Safety

- Attire
 - Dress professionally and distinguishable
 - If gun is visible – Badge should be visible
- Appropriate times of service
 - Is a 2 AM service appropriate
- Service by trick
 - This is the real world, not a movie
- Window peaking
 - This can be dangerous

Eviction Safety

- Squatters
 - Becoming common, watch your back
- Toxic remnants
 - Meth Labs, caustic batteries, chemicals
- Rodents
 - Common with our trash filled homes
- Booby Traps
 - New trend for homeowners losing their home

Eviction Safety

- Electricity
 - Is the power on
- Flooding
 - Water is a conductor of ELECTRICITY
- Gas
 - Can you smell gas

Seizure Safety

- Identify yourself
 - Clothing, badge, ID, court orders
- Vehicle Placement
 - Leave yourself an out, but, park close
- Leave the defendant an out
 - Try not to back anyone into a corner
- Respect
 - Treat people with respect, a civil issue doesn't make them a criminal

Summary

- Act with purpose
- Identify yourself
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Leave people an out
- Treat people with respect
- Leave defendant with their dignity
- Be professional

Questions?