



Judicial Security Self-Assessment

The recent tragedy suffered by our colleague presents an opportunity for all FJA members to pause for a few moments and engage in a personal and family security self-assessment. Your Judicial Security Committee recommends the following:

1. Has your home had a recent U.S. Marshals Service security inspection, including locks, windows, doors, motion detectors, alarm systems, and shrubbery?
2. Do you regularly use your home alarm system?
3. Do you have a comprehensive home security plan which includes a designated “safe room” that has a solid core door, a secure lock, and a telephone or cell phone with a charger? If you have children, have you discussed with them the necessity to shelter in the safe room in the event of a dangerous situation?
4. Do you have a firm policy of requiring that packages delivered by unknown persons be left on the porch or steps until the delivery person leaves the area?
5. Do you have all non-personal packages delivered to the courthouse for screening prior to opening?
6. Do you confirm the identity of people who ring your doorbell before you open the door? Have you discussed this policy with your family and children?
7. Do you have a generic greeting on your voicemail without any personal identifiers? Do you maintain an unlisted and unpublished telephone number?

8. Do you and your family consciously avoid providing your address, telephone number, or other personal information on publicly available documents? If your state allows judges to remove personally identifiable information from public records, have you attempted to do so?
9. Have you attempted to opt out of all public access databases, if possible?
10. Are you cautious about revealing personal information on social media that could potentially identify your home address, identity of family members, or other aspects of your personal life? Have you asked other family members to do so as well?
11. Do you conduct a periodic review of your internet footprint? Is your personal computer equipped with up to date spyware protection?
12. Do you have a practice of notifying the USMS of all unsettling telephone calls, correspondence, or other communications which evidence an excessive or evolving pattern of anger?
13. Are you vigilant of unfamiliar vehicles closely following yours for an inordinate distance or on multiple occasions? Do you have license plates or items in your vehicle identifying you as a federal judge?

If you have questions or need additional assistance, contact your District USMS Judicial Security Inspector.

Security Committee
Federal Judges Association

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