

Greene County Sheriff's Office Introduction & Overview of Administration and Civil Division

GCSO Civil Division is now located in HCH Room 300-both Cpl Cox and Lt Conrad welcomed all to come by if you have questions or direct the public with questions to their location. Cpl Cox has been with GCSO for 15 years and Lt Conrad has been with GCSO for 18 years.

Some of the facts of the GCSO Civil Division:

Staff of 350; of which, 125 are sworn and 225 are civilian. Presentation included a breakdown showing chain of command as well as the insignias designating rank. GCSO Civil Division also includes administrative volunteers, citizens on patrol, reserves, and mounted posse. GCSO Civil Division Administration includes one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Corporal, two clerks, and ten civil deputies.

Their primary functions include: court ordered evictions, summons, child support, dissolution, and tracking garnishments. Cpl Cox explained the many challenges with serving papers, including potential danger from the person being evicted, aggressive dogs, tenant who moves all their belongings but leaves their animals, tenant who won't open the door, or is otherwise uncooperative, and extra family members who show up and attempt to interfere. Garnishments are papers served from the Court to a Bank or an employer for monies to be collected.

If the tenant does not move their own belongings, the landlord is responsible for removal and disposal. Court papers served indicate how much time a tenant has to comply with the order. If the tenant's belongings are moved outside, typically neighbors will pick through them. GCSO has no specific rule about how long the belongings can be "abandoned" outside, but the city and/or county may require the property owner to clean up and remove them.

Cpl Cox told us that there are 40-80 evictions served each week in Greene County (including city of Springfield). These evictions can involve a single mother with children. These families are sometimes helped by churches or family and friends. There is a backlog of papers to serve, primarily garnishments (approximately 200).

During 2016, there were approximately 23,000 court papers served by GCSO Civil Division. Time-sensitive papers (with court dates) get priority. GCSO Civil Division saw 82% service success rate in 2016. In 2013, there were 21,000 court papers served by GCSO Civil Division, which generated \$750,000 in processing fees, of which \$500,000 went to General Revenue.

Civil deputies wear casual uniform and drive unmarked civilian-style vehicles. License plates indicate Greene County and the vehicles have emergency equipment. GCSO Civil Division deputies can make car stops and arrests. They usually work 10 hours per day, and deputies are assigned to geographic areas to become familiar with the people in their assigned locations.

RSMO 575.170 requires an employer to make employees available to have papers served.

Court papers can be served to anyone at a residence that is over the age of 15 years.

Property sales occasionally occur from repossession of vehicles, personal property, and/or land. Rarely are firearms taken by GCSO Civil Division. GCSO Patrol Division usually seizes firearms due to crime or mental instability of individuals encountered, and these firearms may be sold in a Sheriff's sale.

At the close of the presentation, Lt Conrad reminded us that GCSO Civil Division is the security for the campus and encouraged us to call whenever we need help. He also reminded us not to "take in" the homeless at campus offices.