

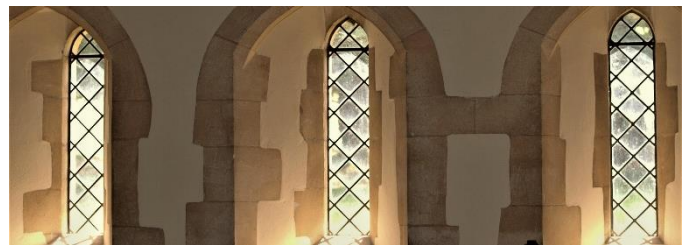


# PLACES OF WORSHIP SECURITY

→ CONDUCT YOUR OWN SECURITY ASSESSMENT WITH THESE HELPFUL TIPS

## FACILITY APPEARANCE & DESIGN

- Is facility (building/grounds) appearance neat, orderly and well maintained?
- Are there blind areas in the parking areas?
- Are there footpaths or alleys leading to the place of worship?
- Are windows clear of decoration or stained glass?
- Are there blind or hiding spots in or around the facility?
- Is the entrance/exit close to the main office?
- Is the main office within easy reach of visitors?
- Are visitors visible at all locations within the facility?
- Are there signs & street numbers on the place of worship for quick identification by emergency services?
- Are non-public doorways made of solid material?
- Are all doors checked before closing the facility?
- Is there roof/basement access?
- Is there adequate lighting inside/outside of the facility to ensure facial recognition from at least 30 feet away?
- Are exterior lights on before facility opens/after it closes to allow employees lighted pathway?
- Is exterior lighting left on or on timers from dusk to dawn?



## EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER (E/V) TRAINING

- Are all employees/volunteers given a thorough background check before hiring?
- Is emergency/intruder response training provided?
- Are these policies review frequently?
- Do E/V greet and make eye contact with visitors at the facility?
- Are E/V easily identifiable by nametag or clothing?
- Are E/V trained to respond properly to armed intruders?
- Are E/V instructed to follow the intruder's commands?
- Do E/V immediately close the place of worship following an incident?
- Are there policies guiding the preservation of evidence after an incident?
- Are E/V trained to respond properly when they discover a "breaking & entering" (B&E)?
- Are there standardized procedures for reporting incidents to police?

## E/V TRAINING (cont.)

- Is the place of worship willing to participate in legal proceedings and prosecution of the offenders?

## SECURITY SYSTEMS

- Does the place of worship have an alarm system?
- Is the place of worship subject to an active “cease police response” for alarms?
- Does this place of worship have an emergency button or pendant to activate the alarm?
- Does this place of worship have a video surveillance system?
- Does this place of worship have a CCTV that is in view of the public?
- Is the surveillance system in good working order?
- Is the security system housed in a secure location?
- Does this place of worship follow all policies in regards to the security system?
- Does the building have an exterior camera system?
- Has this place of worship installed reinforced doors (bars, bolts, locks)?
- Has this place of worship installed reinforced windows (films, bars, etc.)?

## CASH & ASSET CONTROL

- Are monetary donations counted out of sight in a secure area?
- Do you have policies regarding cash handling?
- Are these policies and procedures followed consistently?
- Is this place of worship known to have large amounts of cash on hand?
- Is there a policy limiting the amount of cash in the facility?
- Does the place of worship use a safe?

- Is the safe anchored to the floor? Is the safe alarmed? Is there a time delay on the safe?
- Is safe access limited to a few key staff members? Is the safe located in a secure location?
- Does this facility have valuable items?
- Do you have an inventory of these items with photos and serial numbers for identification purposes if they are stolen?
- Are valuable items (gold/silver worship accessories and expensive electronic items) secured after hours?
- Does this place of worship have policies regarding the safekeeping of valuables?
- Are these policies followed consistently?
- Do you have policies regarding the security of your electronic information?
- Is sensitive data backed up and secured?

## KEYS & CONTROL

- Do you have multiple sets of keys to the facility? Do you know who has them?
- Do you have a key holder policy? Are keys non-reproducible?
- Do you rekey the locks when a person is fired/removed due to a disagreement or “falling out”?

## ADDITIONAL INFO

**DISCLAIMER:** While our recommendations do not guarantee a crime-free environment, it is our experience that the application of these suggestions and recommendations will help reduce the opportunity for crime to occur and will enhance the quality of life.

**CRIME PREVENTION:** Security devices are only effective if used correctly and consistently.

Areas where you may have answered “no” should result in efforts to improve your place of worship’s security.

*(Information updated March 2026)*