

Delaware County

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Detention Officer	Department: Sheriff's Office
Reports to: Shift Sergeant/Jail Administrator/Under Sheriff/Sheriff	FLSA Status: Non Exempt Salary: (3000-3500 Month)
Approval Date: January 28, 2026	Revision Date: N/A

Position Profile

Detention Officers participate in the day-to-day operations of the jail. Officer participation involves, but is not limited to; booking and releasing offenders, maintaining security of the facility, escorting offenders within and /or outside the secure confines of the jail. In addition, Detention Officers will supervise offender work crews, dispense medications, effectively manage volatile and violent offenders, operate a master control center and fulfill a number of clerical duties.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Communicate effectively with a varied population of offenders, including individuals from diverse ethnic, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. This may include persons for whom English is not a primary language, persons with developmental and learning disorders, or individuals with a wide variety of psychiatric and physical disorders.
- Provide direct supervision of offenders within the housing areas of the jail. This will include direct supervision during meal service, security checks, medication distribution, and random or scheduled housing and cell searches. They will also be responsible for the general offender behavior in areas assigned as their duty station, and directly supervise and escort offenders within the secure perimeter of the jail as assigned.
- Accurately dispense prescription medications to offenders during medication delivery, are responsible for checking the accuracy of medical orders listed on medication sheets and packets. Detention Officers will remove the correct medication dose, observe the offender taking the medication, and record the medication dose taken on the medication report sheet.
- Efficiently and accurately complete paperwork including but not limited to: Booking, medication, release records, reports; logs, requests, memos and rosters. Furthermore, will assist in some clerical and reception work to support facility programs when clerical staff is unavailable.
- Tactfully and courteously establish and maintain effective working relationships with the following: Supervisors, co-workers, outside law enforcement agencies, other county departments or agencies, and members of the public.
- Appropriately respond to emergencies in the jail, which may include the following: Offender assaults, fires, riots, offender disturbances, explosions, natural disasters, and hostage conditions. The Detention Officer will immediately and appropriately respond to control these circumstances. This may involve the use of appropriate levels of force through physical management of combative, volatile, hostile and assaultive offenders.
- Accurately operate a variety of equipment, including computers, printers, FAX and fingerprint machines, digital imaging computers, physical restraint devices, firearms, radios, fire extinguishers, intercom systems, telephones, and equipment found in the central control booth.
- Detention Officers work a variety of rotating shifts, as well as rotation of positions, and may perform other duties as assigned or required. May additionally be required to work up to 16 hours on mandatory overtime.

Qualifications

Must be a minimum of 21 years of age.

Education and/or Experience

High School Diploma/GED preferred. Previous experience preferred.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Ability to:

- Smoothly and rapidly shift between dissimilar tasks.
- They must also possess the skills necessary to communicate well both verbally and in writing, and exhibit a willingness and ability to learn computer operations on a variety of different systems.
- React quickly and calmly to emergency situations;
- Make effective decisions while in stressful situations and circumstances;
- Manage disruptive, explosive, violent and potentially assaultive offenders, through the use of both verbal and physical control practices
- Acquire and maintain throughout employment all requisite First Aid, CPR, Defensive Tactic, Firearm, and Bloodborne / Airborne pathogen qualifications or certifications during the normal training cycles.
- Must be emotionally stable, and ability to multi-task.
- Read, write, speak and understand the English language.
- Protect the County's value by keeping information confidential.
- Establish and maintain positive relationships with other upper management, supervisory staff, employees, and the general public. Work well alone or within a team.
- Utilize MS Office products at basic (create new documents, open/edit existing documents) to intermediate (import/export data, create templates) skill level.
- Exercise sound judgment and solicit assistance for decisions in a manner consistent with the essential job duties and responsibilities.
- See problems and avoid situations that could be deemed illegal or represent a safety hazard to fellow employees or guests.
- Respond to inquiries or complaints from employees, guests, regulatory agencies, and others.
- Travel locally, regionally, or out-of-state as needed.
- Maintain physical condition and stamina appropriate to performance of assigned duties.
- Update job knowledge by participating in educational opportunities; professional organizations; attending expos/conventions; and developing or maintaining professional networks.

Physical Demands

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to use hands to finger, handle, or feel; reach with hands and arms; and talk or hear. The employee frequently is required to stand; walk; and stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl. The employee is occasionally required to sit and climb or balance. The employee must regularly lift and/or move up to seventy five (75) pounds. Will be exposed to a physically challenging environment, which may include; exposure to blood borne and airborne pathogens, physical assault, verbal assault, loud noises, prolonged sitting, and restricted movement outside of the facility. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and ability to adjust focus. This is a safety sensitive position.

Work Environment

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. The employee is occasionally exposed to risks associated with travel between properties and back and forth to other areas as may be required due to business demands. Will be exposed to a physically challenging environment, which may include; exposure to Bloodborne and Airborne pathogens, physical assault, verbal assault, loud noises, prolonged sitting, and restricted movement outside of the facility.

The above job description is not intended as, nor should it be construed as, exhaustive of all responsibilities, skills, efforts, or working conditions associated with this job. The duties and responsibilities listed within this job description are subject to change or reassignment by management at any time.

Read and Sign:

I have read the above job description and received a copy of said description. I understand and am fully aware of the requirements of the position. I hereby acknowledge and agree that I am capable of fulfilling all job duties and requirements, including the physical requirements, and that I am fully able to comply with the job description.

Employee's Name (Printed)

Date

Employee's Name (Signature)

Date