

JOB DESCRIPTION: COUNTY SHERIFF

The County sheriff is responsible for law enforcement on the County level. A sheriff's deputies carry out most of the law enforcement duties while the sheriff, usually an elected official, manages their activities. This article discusses some of the job duties of the sheriff and his or her deputies

Career Overview

The sheriff is employed by the county and is often an elected position. He or she acts in role similar to a police chief in a municipal department. Deputies serve under the sheriff in a role similar to that of uniformed police officers. The sheriff usually has jurisdiction over any unincorporated areas of his or her county.

Duties of the sheriff might include:

- Investigating complaints
- Emergency response
- Patrolling
- Resolving disputes
- Arresting suspects
- Criminal investigation
- Executing warrants

Important Facts About Sheriffs

Required Education	High school diploma or equivalent
Similar Occupations	Police detective, correctional officer
Projected Job Growth (2014-2024)	5%
Work Environment	Office, in the field, in the community

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Job Description and Qualifications

Sheriffs are employed by counties, and their departments tend to be small, often with less than 50 employees. Sheriff's deputies need to be physically fit and should possess a desire to help people. While a college degree is not always required, many sheriff deputies have an associate or bachelor's degree. Since the county sheriff typically serves in an elected position, candidates usually have several years of experience and familiarity within the county.