

# Is Your Office Safe?

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

Let's face it—it's 2024 and we live in a dangerous world. Hardly a day goes by when you don't hear or read about violent crime being committed. The reality is that in today's society, threats exist that endanger your life and/or your livelihood. As we learned from the recent pandemic, these hazards are not limited to physical crime, and can be biologic as well. Then add cybercrime and phone scams to the list and you realize that running a practice is often like trying to navigate through a minefield. Besides external issues, there's always the possibility of internal crime, such as embezzlement.



Coping with all these risks requires planning and prevention. A recent *PM News* Quick Poll revealed that approximately two in three podiatry offices have already installed security systems, a good first step. Cleaning and sanitizing your office and installing an air purifier will help reduce biologic threats. Training your staff about phone scams and computer phishing attempting is also crucial.

Dealing with internal perils requires setting up a system of checks and balances, which ensures that no single employee is given the total responsibility for collecting, recording, and depositing cash or checks, and that when possible, insurance checks should be sent to your bank via direct deposit.

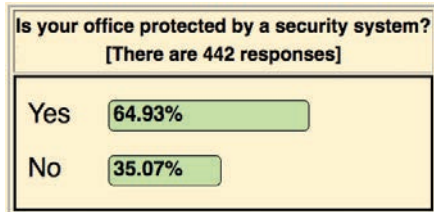
Unfortunately, there is no way to be totally safe, but taking a proactive stance can reduce the chance of your becoming a victim.

Respectfully Submitted,

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