



State of Connecticut Criminal Justice Information System
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Connecticut's Justice Information System Closer to Reality

East Hartford, CT — Connecticut's Criminal Justice System will have a powerful new tool at its disposal soon.

The State's Criminal Justice Information (CJIS) gave its first live demonstration of CISS (Connecticut Information Sharing System) at the July meeting of its Governing Board.

"Simply put, CISS will take data input from criminal justice databases and make it all searchable — searchable to law enforcement and justice officials with the proper security clearance and credentials," says Mike Lawlor, Under Secretary for the State's Office of Policy and Management, which oversees CJIS. Lawlor, who is co-chair of the CJIS Governing Board, said "This new electronic system will increase efficiency among the state's criminal justice agencies, allow the state to do a lot more with a lot less, and save money at the same time as we improve public safety and the justice system as a whole. CISS will do nothing short of revolutionize our criminal justice system."

In November 2012, the first segment of the system will be available to law enforcement. The system will be built up in stages, with data from more agencies and more robust abilities; this work is now projected to go into 2014.

"We are excited to be so close to getting the system online," said CJIS Executive Director Sean Thakkar, "although it's important to point out that CISS will not be working up to its full potential until sometime in 2015."

This state-of-the-art public safety system will allow appropriate criminal justice professionals from various agencies and branches of government to seamlessly share comprehensive files and information on offenders electronically instead of transporting paper documents. The need for the state to create an electronic, modern system such as this became the centerpiece of the criminal justice reform package approved by the General Assembly in 2008. In September 2011, Governor Dannel Malloy signed a contract to begin construction of the system.

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“When the state’s police, court officials, prosecutors, prison administrators, and probation and parole officers were asked what one tool would best improve public safety in the state, they pointed to the creation of this type of integrated electronic system. It is imperative that these agencies have comprehensive access to all of the documents necessary before making vital decisions,” Governor Malloy said in September 2011. “I’m glad the state is finally on track to make this become a reality and I remain committed to its completion being one of my highest priorities.”

CJIS was created by the State Legislature with a mandate to design unique information-sharing systems to connect Connecticut’s criminal justice community, consisting of 11 agencies — judicial, legislative, and municipal — with over 23,000 staff members and 52 information systems. CJIS oversees three major applications, the most comprehensive and last of which will be CISS. It will provide the first unified information sharing system for all of these users and systems, allowing the instant sharing of everything from audio, video, graphic, and text files.

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