



Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Overview of need for Arizona Integration of Criminal Justice Information Systems (AZ ICJIS)

Background

- State criminal history records are less than 70% complete; this is defined as final disposition reports not having all pertinent information.
- The police officer on the street who initiates first point of contact with a suspect needs accurate and timely information, including ability for positive identification of a criminal via two-print verification.
- Criminal justice agencies rely on accurate and complete criminal history information for making determination with regard to bail, sentencing, release and eligibility to possess firearms.
- Public and private sector employers that require background checks rely on criminal history records when making employment decisions; inaccurate or incomplete information can leave a company with a *serious liability*.

Where the state stands currently

- Vertical integration of justice information from local agencies up to the state repository (DPS) still remains a manual paper process in most jurisdictions.
- Most local jurisdictions cannot communicate criminal justice information laterally (agency to agency), even within the same counties.
- Without statewide strategic planning, Arizona's criminal justice agencies will continue to develop disparate systems that cannot communicate laterally or vertically.
- ACJC contracted for an extensive project analysis and received conceptual architecture and system design documents; 2006 estimated cost of project is \$24 million.

What's at risk

- Suspects or persons of interest will continue to be released at first point of contact because positive identification cannot be verified through two-print checks.
- Courts and probation will continue to make decisions based on incomplete information because they are not receiving critical information in a timely manner.
- Companies will continue to hire convicted criminals and possibly face lawsuits because background checks on employees were incomplete or inaccurate.
- The information being sent from the state criminal history repository to the national FBI network is incomplete; this information is used nationally by law enforcement and the intelligence community.