

Office of the Governor  
Ronnie Musgrove, Governor



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# **Integrating Criminal Justice Systems**

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An action plan for improving public safety in  
Mississippi

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# Information Technology

## Integrating Information for Improved Public Safety

As criminal activities increase and become more advanced, law enforcement must rise to meet the challenge. Faced with limited resources, public safety officials will turn to systems and activities that provide improved efficiency. In Mississippi, we have taken advantage of centralizing our criminal information resources through our Department of Public Safety's Criminal Information Center.

### The Center

Criminal Information Center is responsible for maintaining a state-of-the-art records repository and to perform the duties and functions as set forth in Mississippi law, specifically, maintaining a system for the communication of vital information relating to crimes, criminals, and criminal activity known as the Mississippi Justice Information Center.

The Center serves as the state records repository and provides fingerprint-based identification services to law enforcement and other criminal justice entities in the State of Mississippi and throughout the United States.

- **Enhanced Central Criminal History (ECCH) System** - All arrest reports and fingerprint cards are entered into the Mississippi Criminal History System (MCHS) either manually by the Center's Data Entry Unit or electronically via live scan from local law enforcement entities. These records are stored on the Enhanced Central Criminal History computer system and are electronically transmitted to the Interstate Identification Index system. The Center also expunges records of arrests and convictions when ordered by the courts according to statutory authority.
  - **Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)** - AFIS is a computerized fingerprint system that is linked to the state's ECCH system. This system is used to compare fingerprints maintained in the system at the time arrest records are submitted. The suspect's fingerprints establish positive identification linking the arrest to previous criminal history records information. The state's system is interfaced with the FBI's IAFIS system (the national fingerprint database) and the records are automatically indexed in III. Unidentified latent fingerprints from crime scenes can be searched and identified through AFIS, and can also be transmitted, searched, and identified through the FBI's IAFIS. The Center also uses AFIS to process applicant background checks by fingerprints for entities authorized by state statute.
  - **Mississippi Justice Information Center Network** is responsible for maintaining the network which connects Mississippi agencies to agencies nationwide. The network provides connectivity to:
    - --National Crime Information Center (Hot Files)
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- --Interstate Identification Index (III) system
- --National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System
- --Mississippi State Tax Commission (vehicle information)
- --Mississippi Drivers License information

MJIC law requires local law enforcement agencies to report stolen property and wanted or missing persons to MJIC via the MJIC Network. Control terminal operators are on duty twenty-four (24) hours per day to monitor the status of the network, provide assistance to law enforcement agencies, and provide quality control on all entries made by local agencies. Control terminal operators also route administrative NLETS traffic to Mississippi agencies.

- **Interstate Identification Index (III)** - All states submit records of felony and serious misdemeanor arrests to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The FBI maintains a national database of these records known as the Interstate Identification Index or III system. The III is an index system used to identify the states in which an arrest occurred.
- **National Crime Information Center (NCIC)** - The FBI maintains a database of wanted individuals, missing persons, stolen items, and other similar types of items. Mississippi's records interface with this system through the Mississippi Justice Information Center.
- **Mississippi Sex Offenders Registry (MSOR)** - The MSOR is a computerized database used to register and maintain information on all convicted sex offenders residing in the state of Mississippi as specified in *Miss. Code Ann. §45-33-21 et seq.* All registration information submitted by sheriffs' offices and other state and federal law enforcement agencies is reviewed and entered into the Registry database. Quarterly verification letters are sent to registered offenders to verify current information including address, telephone number, place of employment, address of employment and any other information subject to verification. This database is accessible by the public via an Internet website.
- **Pretrial Intervention Program** - Pretrial intervention, which is under the direct supervision of the district attorney, is a program which allows eligible offenders the opportunity to complete certain court-imposed conditions in lieu of a conviction or criminal prosecution. Upon successful completion of the conditions, the pending criminal charge against the offender will be dismissed without prejudice by the district attorney. CIC's pretrial intervention program database is a PC-based program which maintains a record of each person accepted into Mississippi's pretrial intervention program, as set forth in *Miss. Code Ann. §99-15-101 et seq.* The database also tracks the individual's progress in the program.

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## **Initiatives in Mississippi**

E-Government Integration

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## **Next Steps**

Appointment of Team