

Connecticut Criminal Justice Information System

STATE OF CONNECTICUT CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM/ DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ENDORSEMENT OFFENDER MATCH

SYNOPSIS

The State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) contacted the Connecticut Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) in 2007 to inquire whether it would be possible to use the CJIS Offender Based Tracking System (OBTS) to look for offenders who hold student transportation endorsements. A manual process was developed and implemented using PL/SQL Developer. Since the first data exchange, CJIS has standardized to NIEM 2.0. The process was defined and working, so CJIS decided to use this exchange as the pilot for NIEM 2.0 and the IEPD process. As a result, CJIS has defined the NIEM 2.0 exchange and has published the Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD). Staff at the DMV have reported that this exchange process has assisted them in their efforts to ensure that persons holding student transportation endorsements maintain proper qualifications.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

CJIS is the umbrella term for information system activity among agencies with justice responsibilities in Connecticut. These agencies are:

- Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police
- Judicial Branch's Office of Chief Court Administrator
- Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division
- Division of Criminal Justice, Office of the Chief State's Attorney
- Division of Public Defender Services, Office of Chief Public Defender
- Department of Correction

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHALLENGE: The DMV currently uses the OBTS Web-based search engine to conduct background checks for those seeking student transportation endorsements to their licenses. There remained an outstanding issue of identifying persons who had clean initial background checks, were granted endorsements, and subsequently became offenders. DMV staff needed to know about such offenders so that they could remove their student transportation endorsements.

SOLUTION: CJIS now receives a monthly file from DMV of persons holding student transportation endorsements. CJIS matches that file against the Offender Based Tracking System and returns the file to DMV with the appropriate match information. CJIS updates the file with the corresponding offender information found on OBTS.

RESULTS: As a result of the coordinated efforts of CJIS and DMV, a batch comparison between the offender-based database and the DMV endorsement-holder database was created. DMV's Passenger Endorsement Review Unit (PERU) has reviewed the results of the first batch run, which provided DMV with the criminal histories from OBTS for individuals holding student transportation endorsements. The first batch proved to be an invaluable source of data concerning student transportation endorsement holders. PERU is now receiving batch runs on a monthly basis and finding OBTS an invaluable source of validation concerning student transportation endorsement holders.

- Board of Pardons and Paroles
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Office of Victim Advocate
- Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
- Office of Policy and Management, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
- Department of Information Technology
- Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

The agency commissioners are members of the CJIS Governing Board, which establishes direction and policy on justice information. Agency designees make up a CJIS Implementation Group to facilitate the coordination and integration of CJIS programs.

CJIS encompasses programs or projects that generally incorporate interagency initiatives, data sharing, and enhancement of agency capabilities for justice information management. CJIS relates to both federal and state programs.

A CJIS program initiative known as the Offender Based Tracking System is the kingpin in bringing many different information systems together to more effectively and efficiently track offenders. The projects being carried out in support of Connecticut's CJIS are funded and managed within its program components. Please refer to Connecticut's CJIS program initiatives.

The DMV, through PERU, regulates persons who drive school buses, student activity vehicles, taxi cabs, and limousines. PERU performs fingerprint-supported criminal background checks prior to issuing public service endorsements (PSEs).

CHALLENGE

The State of Connecticut DMV contacted the Connecticut CJIS in 2007 to inquire whether the CJIS Offender Based Tracking System (OBTS) could be used to look for offenders holding student transportation endorsements. OBTS is the central repository of offender information from the criminal justice agencies in the state of Connecticut.

The first challenge faced by the agencies involved privacy issues regarding the sharing of data. Fortunately, the DMV persons having access to the files provided were already certified by OBTS.

The second challenge was that DMV is a mainframe legacy system; thus data formatting became an issue. This issue was resolved by converting the data being transmitted by DMV.

The third challenge was the most complex. If CJIS found a discrepancy between data provided by DMV and information returned by OBTS on any top-three key matching fields, all matches were rejected and a flag turned on to notify DMV that this needed to be looked at manually.

“The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), through the Passenger Endorsement Review Unit (PERU), regulates persons who drive school buses, student activity vehicles, taxi cabs, and limousines.”

SOLUTION

The initial solution for searching OBTS for offenders holding student transportation endorsements was the development and implementation of a manual process using PL/SQL Developer. On April 27, 2007, the first production file was transmitted. In 2005, Connecticut CJIS standardized on GJXDM 3.0. Since the first data exchange, CJIS has standardized to NIEM 2.0. Since the process was defined and working, CJIS decided to use this exchange as the pilot for NIEM 2.0 and the IEPD process. CJIS requested a grant for assistance in the development of an IEPD.



RESULTS

CJIS has defined the NIEM 2.0 exchange and published the IEPD on the IEPD Clearinghouse. CJIS continues to work on the automation of the exchange. CJIS now receives a monthly file from DMV of persons holding student transportation endorsements. CJIS matches the file against OBTS and returns the file back to DMV with the appropriate match information. The DMV has reported that it has taken actions to disqualify individuals from holding student transportation endorsements based on findings from this exchange process. CJIS has received an inquiry from the Department of Consumer Protection to develop a similar process to check physicians, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, real estate persons, and home improvement contractors holding licenses in the state of Connecticut against OBTS.