



FACT SHEET

MINNESOTA JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES

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Suspense Prevention and Resolution

Suspense occurs when a court disposition cannot be matched to an arrest record in the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system. Suspense can occur for a variety of reasons such as incomplete or missing key data, key data mismatch, or lack of fingerprints. The four key data fields that must match are Originating Agency Case Number (OCA), Controlling Agency (CAG) ORI, Name and Date of Birth.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING SUSPENSE

Suspended court dispositions have serious impact across the criminal justice system:

- A subject's access to the judicial process could be delayed or constrained. They could also be improperly denied employment or housing, leading to potential liability.
- An inaccurate criminal history could also lead to convicted offenders being cleared for firearms purchases or employment in "sensitive" positions.
- Public safety and security is eroded as flight risk increases.
- A prosecutor's efficiency can also be decreased because of the need to manage a noncustodial subject and ensure their processing. If the subject does not cooperate, contempt charges could also lead to wasted time and resources.
- The courts' efficiency can also be decreased because of rescheduled court appearances and the need to spend time and resources correcting suspended court dispositions.
- The effectiveness of the courts can be reduced. Prosecutors and court personnel may be impeded because of an inability to:
 - confirm the subject's identity
 - confirm the controlling agency (CAG)
 - sufficiently review the subject's criminal history
 - successfully prosecute and adjudicate based on current and historical fact

PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION STRATEGIES

- Partner with your fellow criminal justice agencies (law enforcement, detention facilities, probation/parole, prosecution, judicial, BCA, etc.)
- Utilize the Offender Tracking Form
- Monitor your agency's suspense statistics
- Document your agency's policies and procedures for preventing and reconciling suspense and ensure agency staff fully understands their role
- Provide staff with booking and fingerprinting training and procedures
- Run a criminal history on your arrestee to ensure there are no outstanding suspense records requiring fingerprints
- Utilize BCA tools and resources
- Monitor quality of prints being taken and address training issues

RELATED STATUTES

[Minnesota State Statutes §299C.10](#) - Identification Data Required

[Minnesota State Statutes §299C.11](#) - Identification Data Furnished to the BCA

[Minnesota State Statutes §299C.111](#) - Suspense File Reporting

TARGETED MISDEMEANORS REQUIRING FINGERPRINTS PER §299C.10

[Minnesota State Statutes §169A.20](#) – Driving While Impaired

[Minnesota State Statutes §518B.01 subd.14](#) – Violation of Order for Protection

[Minnesota State Statutes §609.224](#) – 5th Degree Assault

[Minnesota State Statutes §609.2242](#) – Domestic Assault

[Minnesota State Statutes §609.746](#) – Interference with Privacy

[Minnesota State Statutes §609.748](#) – Harassment; Restraining Order

[Minnesota State Statutes §617.23](#) – Indecent Exposure

[Minnesota State Statutes §629.75](#) – Domestic Abuse No Contact Order

BCA TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Suspense Prevention Website (Information and related links on suspense prevention):

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/mnjis/Pages/suspense-prevention.aspx>.

Suspense Statistics Website (Agency suspense statistics by county and agency by month/year and cumulative total): <https://suspense-stats.state.mn.us/main.aspx>

CJIS Launch Pad Website (Access to online Criminal History Records Maintenance System training and certification, CHRMS User Guide, CHRMS Administrator Guide and CHRMS Release Notes):

<https://bcanextest.x.state.mn.us/launchpad/>

Criminal History Record Maintenance System (CHRMS) Access Consent Form:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/mnjis/Documents/CHRMSAccessConsent.pdf>

Criminal History Records Maintenance System (CHRMS) User Registration Form:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/mnjis/Documents/CHRMSUserRegistrationForm.pdf>

Livescan Message Enhancement Agency Registration Information Form:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/mnjis/Documents/LME%20registration%20form%20instructions.pdf>

BCA Data Analyst (suspense prevention and resolution): bca.cch.unit@state.mn.us.

BCA Service Desk (access to, or training questions regarding, CHRMS or LME): bca.servicedesk@state.mn.us or (651)793-2500, (888)234-1119.