

# MNCIS & MPA Level of Sentence Fact Sheet

May 2009

## What is Level of Sentence?

Level of Sentence (LOS) is an automated feature in the case management system that automatically calculates and displays the level of sentence on a case based on the sentence imposed by the judge and entered into the case management system. The automation is calculated on the sentence elements and the statutory provisions as prescribed in M.S. 609.135.

## Business Benefit/Purpose:

MNCIS & MPA currently display the level of offense of each charge at the time of entry (charging) as well as at the time of a finding or plea of guilt (disposition).

- The MNCIS Steering Committee determined **level of sentence** to be a missing system data element important to providing a clear, complete and accurate picture at key points in the lifecycle of a criminal case. The MNCIS Steering Committee recommended implementation of this automated feature.
- System automation is based on the elements of the pronounced sentence and statute (see "How Does this Feature Work" section at right). The logic the system will use to calculate level of sentence was defined by a multi-disciplinary workgroup.
- Consumers of court information rely on court records for a variety of significant purposes, such as a specific function per agency rule (e.g. determination of criminal history score) or other purposes such as hiring or housing determinations.
- Court information is received by some state and local agencies via electronic data integration, other consumers of court information view system information at a public computer located in a courthouse and on the Internet (MNCIS Public Access-MPA).
- Misinterpretation of court data can lead to adverse consequences for criminal defendants.
- The automated Level of Sentence feature in MNCIS is intended to eliminate the need for individuals (who may not have a comprehensive understanding of court data) to interpret the court record with regard to the level of the imposed sentence.

## How Does this Feature Work?

In this context, level of sentence **logic** is defined as the business rules or "intelligence" hard coded into the system which facilitates automation. The system logic for calculating the level of sentence in MNCIS is predicated on the elements of the imposed sentence as well as the statutory provisions in M.S. 609.135, which makes this type of system automation multi-faceted and complex.

- The following are the business rules defined and used for determining and displaying level of sentence:
  - A **felony** sentence level is one in which a sentence of incarceration for more than one year, or a fine of more than \$3,000, or both, is imposed.
  - A **gross misdemeanor** sentence level is one in which a sentence of - incarceration for 91 to 365 days, or a fine of \$ 1,001 to 3,000, or both, is imposed.
  - A **misdemeanor** sentence level is one in which a sentence of incarceration for up to 90 days, or a fine of \$301 to \$1,000, or both, is imposed.
  - A **petty misdemeanor** sentence level is one in which a sentence of a fine of up to \$300 is imposed.
- For all levels, the sentence level is first determined by the term of incarceration. If there is no term of incarceration, then the sentence level is determined by the amount of the fine.
- Additional system logic will facilitate calculation and appropriately adjust the level of sentence in certain situations prescribed under 609.135. (e.g., Stay of Imposition).
- The level of sentence will **NOT** be calculated when the following Court Decision Types are entered in MNCIS:
  - Continued
  - Sentence Combined with another case
  - No Sentence Pronounced

## When will it be Available?

This automated feature is planned to be implemented in MNCIS on June 1, 2009. As it is enabled in the case management system, it will also be displayed on MNCIS Public Access (MPA).