

What Are Court Integration Services?

Court Integration Services is a collection of computer based tools that allow the Minnesota Court Information System (MNCIS) and the computer systems of the Court's business partners to exchange information electronically. These services make it possible for each agency to have current information about court cases, parties associated with those cases, court hearings and case outcomes. Integration services can be either "general purpose" or "custom" services. The Court calls these services 'integrations'.

General Purpose Integrations

Many general purpose integrations have been developed to automate common tasks performed by staff at the Court and its business partner agencies. These integrations increase efficiency by reducing the amount of time spent manually managing information and entering it into computer systems. Integrations improve the quality of data by reducing the chance of errors that can result when data is entered manually, and they improve the timeliness of data by allowing it to be immediately transferred between systems.

There are three types of general purpose integration services:

- **Integrated eFiling.** These services can be used by Court business partners to electronically create and update court cases.
- **Notification Services.** These are electronic notices sent from MNCIS that contain information about court cases and bonds. That information can be used to automatically update the computer systems of Court business partners.
- **Query Services.** Queries can be used to electronically request information about court cases. The responses are returned electronically.

Integrated eFiling Services

Integrated eFiling Services are used for a variety of functions:

1. To initiate traffic and criminal cases charged by citation or criminal complaint. This is primarily done through the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's (BCA) eCharging process. Law Enforcement and County Attorneys submit their citations and complaints to the BCA, which in turn eFiles them with the Court. Please see the [BCA](#) for details about eFiling criminal and traffic cases.
2. eFiling is also used by local agencies to directly update cases in MNCIS. Some of the updates that can be done this way include adding attorney assignment, updating case detention status,

scheduling hearings, updating interpreter status on a case, adding other agency identifiers for a case party, adding a professional party to a case and updating warrant status. You can find more information about this in the [Integrated eFiling Fast Facts](#) document or the [Integrated eFiling web page](#).

Notification Services

Notification Services allow an authorized agency's system to receive court information from the Minnesota Judicial Branch as events occur. Notifications announce changes to a case or bond in MNCIS and include all the pertinent information about the case or bond that changed. It is important to remember that notifications are electronic transmissions from one computer system to another. These transmissions are designed to allow the receiving computer system to update databases or to be used by software running on that system. The two families of notification services are:

- Case Notifications communicate changes to information on a court case.
- Bond Notifications communicate changes to information on a bond.

Please see the [Notification Service Fast Facts](#) document or the [Notification Services web page](#) for more details.

Query Services

Query Services allow an authorized agency's system to get court information on demand from the Minnesota Judicial Branch. Like notifications and eFiling, queries and query results are electronic transmissions between computer systems and are designed to be automatically processed by the receiving system. There are two queries that provide court case information from MNCIS:

- Case Search by Party searches for MNCIS court cases that are associated with a specific party. This service provides search options which allow the requestor to specify the party criteria by which the case search should be done, such as name, date of birth, driver's license number and other identifiers.
- Case Get provides additional information pertaining to specified court cases. This service provides options that allow the requestor to specify the criteria for the types of cases to include in the results, and what types of data should be returned.

Often, the Case Search by Party query is followed by a Case Get query to get details on the cases that were found for this party. Please see the [Query Services Fast Facts](#) document or the [Query Services web page](#) for more details.

How Are Court Integration Services Used?

Agencies use Court Integration Services to:

- Automatically efile information with the court when changes occur in the local agency system.
- Automatically update their local systems when court case or bond information changes.
- Automatically get court case information when a local business process requires it.

Please see the [Integration Ideas for Local Agencies](#) document for specific ideas on how to use these integration services.

What Are the Benefits of Court Integration Services?

Using integration services has several benefits:

- They increase the timeliness of information in both the court system and the local agency systems.
- They reduce the labor required to maintain information.
- They increase the quality of information by reducing the chance for error that can occur when data is manually entered.
- Systems are kept in sync with each other. This reduces the need to log into multiple systems to gather information about cases and parties.

How to Get Started

Below is a summary of how to implement any of the Integration Services. More details are found in the [Getting Started with Integration Services](#) document which is also found on the Integration Services web pages.

1. **Discussions with Business Partners:** The best way to start integration projects is to meet with the affected parties, including the Court Administrator, County Attorney, Corrections, Law Enforcement, Jail and other associated agencies, and the vendor or local IT staff to determine the integration program's goals and objectives, the capabilities of the local agency's software, and the priority of each of the integration projects.
2. **Evaluate feasibility and costs:** For software provided by a vendor, the vendor should be able to determine the feasibility and costs of making their software utilize integration services. If the system was developed in-house, then the local software developers can determine feasibility and costs.
3. **Request Access to Court Integration Services:** When one or more integration ideas have been chosen, the agencies affected need to request access to the relevant Integration Services.

4. **Develop and Test:** Integration Services provides many documents and resources to assist with development and testing. This includes technical documents, sample messages, sample programs, and access to a test environment.
5. **Put into Production:** When ready, your local application can be redirected from the testing environment to work in production. Do a final check with the Integration Services staff to be sure your production subscription is active.

Custom Integrations

In addition to the general purpose integrations described above, the Minnesota Judicial Branch has developed custom integrations for various state agencies and for use internally within the Minnesota Judicial Branch. Custom integrations are used within the Judicial Branch to exchange information between the District Courts and Appellate Courts, and to integrate with the attorney registration system and with the guardian ad litem database.

State agencies use custom integrations to maintain internal records as mandated by state statute and internal business practice. For example, agencies, such as the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) and the Office of Secretary of State (OSS) are responsible for maintaining public safety information and managing privileges that may be impacted by criminal or civil court actions. Custom integrations provide them with the court information they need to carry out their responsibilities.

Custom integrations include:

State Agency	Integration	Custom Integration Description
Public Safety: BCA	Dispositions for Criminal History System	Adult and Juvenile disposition data from MNCIS has been passed to the BCA since July 2004. The BCA disposition pass includes both adult and juvenile disposition data.
Public Safety: BCA	Domestic Abuse No Contact Orders (DANCO) and Orders for Protection (OFP).	Provide information about DANCOs and OFPs to the BCA, including a driver's license photo if appropriate. The BCA makes this information available to law enforcement.
Department of Revenue	Cases referred for Collection	Pass case information to a collection agency when collection activity needs to be initiated or updated.
DNR	Dispositions	Adult and Juvenile dispositions are passed to the DNR on a scheduled basis. The type of data passed will be DNR-specific dispositions.

Public Safety: DVS	Driver License Suspensions and Reinstatements	Provide real time electronic transmission of Driver's License Suspensions and Reinstatements and notifications of No Proof of Insurance violations to the DVS.
Public Safety: DVS	Driving Convictions	Adult and Juvenile convictions from MNCIS are electronically passed to DVS for application to driver's license records.
OSS	Voting Rights	Court actions that impact an individual's voting rights are passed to the OSS when entered into MNCIS.
Public Safety: BCA	National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)	Court actions that impact an individual's firearm rights are passed to the BCA. The BCA passes the data to the NICS system maintained by the FBI.