Overview

The State of Minnesota has a number of state agencies that use Court Integration Services. There are a number of state agencies that have created services that are used by local agencies throughout the state. This document discusses the use of integration services and the benefits experienced.

Minnesota Department of Corrections

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) is responsible for confining and supervising offenders, keeping offenders and the public, verifying that offenders with active detainers are not released and making sure that offenders serve the correct sentence. It is critical for the DOC to receive court case information upon case disposition, so it knows that an offender is coming, for what reason and for how long. To keep visitors safe, the DOC needs to know of any no contact conditions that could be in force to protect people from the offender, as sometimes protected parties attempt to visit the offender. The DOC needs to know exact sentence information and any jail credit, so offenders are not released early or late. Court Integration Services provides current and updated court case information through notifications and queries.

The DOC uses the Case Notification Service that provide court decisions and then filters those that specify, “Commit to the Commissioner of Corrections”, as they indicate some type of sentence of supervision or confinement. This allows the DOC to prepare for the arrival of the offender, so that provider intake is processed more smoothly. This preparation includes using the Query Service to find the offender’s criminal cases, so the DOC can update the offender’s criminal history. At various times in the offender’s commitment to the DOC, new case or updated cases are updated in the DOC systems.

In the near future, the DOC plans to add Integrated eFiling Services so it can transmit reports and correspondence directly to the Judicial Branch, updating the offender’s court cases.

Implementing the case notifications and queries has had a dramatic effect on the internal processes of the DOC. Before this integration, offenders would arrive with a stack of paperwork and DOC staff would have to calculate the sentence duration, proper placement and other factors manually while the offender waited. This was a very difficult process and resulted in some backlog and other system bottlenecks as well. After implementing case notifications, the sentence can be prepared, audited and ready before the offender arrives. DOC knows when offenders are coming and is ready for their arrival. Quality of intake processing has greatly improved. Thinking about the process has led to the development of a specialized sentencing team that process intakes in a consistent, accurate and timely fashion. The DOC would like to

be able to increase the size of the IT staff to pursue additional integration and system opportunities and achieve greater efficiencies in other area of service delivery as well.