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STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PATROL
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August 17, 2015

Data Dissemination Committee
c/o Ms. Stephanie Happold
Administrative Office of the Courts
PO Box 41170
Olympia WA 98504

Dear Members of the Data Dissemination Committee:

The Washington State Patrol Identification and Criminal History Section is the repository for criminal history record information (CHRI) for the state of Washington. The information in our files consists of fingerprint cards and disposition information provided by law enforcement agencies and courts throughout the state.

Effective July 24, 2015, RCW 13.50.260(8)(d) requires the Washington State Patrol to ensure the Washington State Identification System (WASIS) criminal history database provides criminal justice agencies access to sealed juvenile records information. In order to ensure our records are updated accurately, the Identification and Criminal History Section requests our staff's access authority level in JIS be increased so that we could view sealed juvenile records. Currently, once a record is sealed in JIS, we are unable to view the record.

While implementing the new law, we have run into a bit of a snag with the process on our end. The court is dismissing and sealing the court case at pretty much the same time. The dismissal comes to us via our electronic disposition transfer process, which has a seven day built-in delay on our end to ensure we have the fingerprint arrest information entered into WASIS prior to the disposition.

This delay is causing us an issue now because we are getting the seal information from the courts before we receive the electronic disposition transfer report (EDTR). When we go into our system to seal the record, we are often unable to tell which event to seal. The seal orders or spreadsheets don't typically list the charge being sealed and other necessary information for us to update our records appropriately. We need to be able to determine what the court charge and disposition were (i.e. guilty/dismissed/etc.) prior to the dismissal so that we can annotate that information in the record.

Having the ability to view sealed juvenile information in JIS will help us in ensuring we appropriately update information in our files and will reduce the impact on local courts and prosecutors by our staff contacting them for needed information.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Becky Miner, Criminal History Records Manager at (360) 534-2111.

Sincerely,

Ms. Deborah L. Collinsworth
Identification and Criminal History Section

DLC:sh
cc: Ms. Becky Miner, Identification and Criminal History Section