CASANOVA POWELL
CONSULTING

April 17, 2018

JISC Data Dissemination Committee
c/o Stephanie Happold
Data Dissemination Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504
Stephanie.Happold@courts.wa.gov

Re: Request for access to DWI offender driver license number

Dear Members of the Data Dissemination Committee,

I am the Principal of Casanova Powell Consulting (CPC), an independent traffic safety consulting firm. I have worked in the field of traffic safety for over 20 years. I previously worked for the Traffic Injury Research Foundation, USA, and Preusser Research Group, where I have conducted several impaired-driving research studies including studies in Washington State. Specifically, I was contracted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) to conduct a study looking at several outcomes that may influence recidivism rates of alcohol-ignition interlock offenders. For these studies, court data from the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) was used and analyzed to determine these outcomes. These studies, among other interlock research, have found that interlocks reduce recidivism, and may have long term effects on changing impaired driving behavior, especially when the interlock is used in conjunction with treatment and other monitoring efforts. However, there is a large population of interlock offenders that never install an interlock, or do not respond successfully to the interlock program. Often these offenders either continue to drive unlicensed or continue to violate while the interlock is installed resulting in an unsuccessful completion of the interlock term. These DWI offenders are more likely to recidivate and continue to be an imminent public safety hazard on our roadways.

I have been highly published in this area and continue to work on efforts to reduce impaired-driving crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities. I am currently working with ignition interlock manufacturers, using their data in conjunction with state arrest and conviction data to build on this research, to identify specific cohorts of offenders, including those who recidivate versus those who do not. For those offenders that do recidivate, we are looking to identify characteristics to determine influences on why these offenders recidivate, as well as the length of time it takes for each demographically isolated cohort to recidivate, in addition other potential influences on recidivism.

Casanova Powell Consulting (CPC)
Traffic Safety Program Design and Implementation, Evaluation, and Research

24 Farmington Dr. Hamden, CT 06518 |
Phone/Fax: 203.821.7657 | Mobile: 203.809.8709 |
Email: taracpc@outlook.com |

We have selected Washington State as one of several states to be included in this study because of Washington's strong ignition interlock law and effective monitoring program. The results of this study will be used to inform current ignition interlock programs to create strategies to increase ignition interlock participation, and further reduce recidivism among these particular cohorts of DWI offenders. We are requesting this information from the AOC because it is understood that records maintained by the AOC are more comprehensive than conviction data. Accessing these records to be matched to manufacturer data will give us a richer picture of the study participants' drinking behavior.

In order to accomplish our objectives, we do not need access to AOC's entire database of defendant case histories. Rather, we are seeking DWI offender case histories only for identified individuals, all of whom are customers of the participating interlock manufacturers. The manufacturers have strict privacy and security measures in place to protect the information of their customers as well as their proprietary information. These security measures are available upon request. For our data request, we will be providing driver license numbers of those DWI offenders who have installed an ignition interlock. We are requesting court conviction data for these offenders to include the number of prior and subsequent arrests for these offenders. For matching purposes, we are respectfully requesting that the driver license number be included with the DWI offender court information we are requesting. The driver license number will be used to match the court data to the manufacturer data to identify trends within the various DWI offender cohorts.

If it would reduce the burden on AOC personnel, we would be happy to partner with agencies that have access to this data already, as long as we can do so in a way that protects the individuals' privacy. We would be happy to discuss this request further or to refine it as necessary to minimize the burden on your agency. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

I respectfully request that this committee authorize the AOC to include the driver license number of particular interlock offenders among the data disseminated for our request. I would be pleased to answer any questions the Data Dissemination Committee may have regarding this request. I look forward to working with you on this important project.

Sincerely,

Tara Casanova Powell

Tara Casanova Powell
Principal

Casanova Powell Consulting (CPC)
Traffic Safety Program Design and Implementation, Evaluation, and Research

24 Farmington Dr. Hamden, CT 06518 |
Phone/Fax: 203.821.7657 | Mobile: 203.809.8709 |
Email: taracpc@outlook.com |