

Date sent: February 1, 2013

This communication is intended for law enforcement and eCitation vendors who electronically file citations with the Court.

It is also intended for all court staff that process cases in the criminal or juvenile area. Please forward this message to the appropriate staff in your locations.

Purpose: To clarify for law enforcement, eCitation vendors, and court staff which citations are to be filed and heard in juvenile court and which are to be filed and heard in adult court.

Background:

Many law enforcement agencies around the state electronically file adult court citations. From time to time there are questions regarding the appropriate court jurisdiction for juvenile offenders. The statutes and rules that govern the jurisdiction of cases charged against 16 and 17 year old offenders are complex. The volume of questions is increasing due to the growing number of law enforcement agencies who file citations electronically. We want to ensure that law enforcement has the information necessary to make the determination of the appropriate court jurisdiction prior to submission.

Action steps going forward:

1. *Review and distribute* the “[Juvenile vs. Adult Court Jurisdiction](#)” chart to all personnel who issue, file, or process citations and train them accordingly.
2. Because the charging level and case type are key indicators as to Juvenile vs. Adult court jurisdiction, ensure that appropriate resources (i.e. [Statewide Payables lists](#), [Minnesota Criminal Justice Statute Service](#), Supervisors, Attorneys etc.) are available to all personnel so they can determine the correct charging level and case type.
3. Law enforcement agencies and eCitation vendors should do their best to ensure eCitations with juvenile court offenders do not get filed electronically as adult court cases. It is preferred that this be done through programming technology to detect and warn/prevent the user from incorrectly doing so.
4. Court staff may also refer to the chart when making decisions about whether a citation should be processed in juvenile court or adult court.

What this means to you:

Law Enforcement and court staff should review the “Juvenile vs. Adult Court Jurisdiction” chart when determining if an eCitation is to be submitted/processed in Juvenile or Adult court.

Thank you,

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