



CSSD Chronicle



A regular publication of information and news about Court Support
Services Division

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PRAWN System Launches "Paperless" Re-arrest Warrant Service

Warrant service is an important part of the work that CSSD officers do. It contributes to achieving our goal of providing enhanced public safety through effective monitoring of compliance with court orders. However, the system was cumbersome and time consuming. Warrants were hand delivered to police and then field visits were conducted for service. Also, the backlog of unserved warrants has been continuously growing due to manpower shortages and notification delay issues.

ENHANCEMENT TO WARRANT SERVICE: As noted by Bill Carbone, CSSD Executive Director, "The development of the PRAWN (Paperless Rearrest Warrant) system will greatly improve our ability to serve warrants. Police or probation can now serve any violation of probation and bring the client to their local court which is a great savings of manpower hours compared to how warrants were handled in the past." With PRAWN, probation staff scans the warrant and affidavit into the system. Police have immediate electronic access to the information and are now able to print the signed electronic copy when they serve the violation of probation warrant.

INCREASED EFFICIENCIES ACHIEVED: Currently, most Failure to Appear warrants are already paperless and in PRAWN. Effective March 17th PRAWN went statewide for all probation officers to add new violation of probation warrants to the system through an information technology interface that was developed between CMIS and PRAWN. To illustrate the effectiveness of the new system, just prior to the statewide rollout, four VOP warrants were entered into PRAWN. Within just four days, three of the warrants were served by police. In another example, within just three hours of scanning in a sex offender warrant the individual was apprehended by the police. Stories like these are becoming more and more common as the size of PRAWN's data base is increased. The potential for increased efficiencies through the use of this technology are enormous for getting warrants into the hands of police and increasing the actual service to address probation non compliance.

PRAWN WILL AID LAW ENFORCEMENT: Presently Adult Probation has 6,500 active warrants. A target date of August 15, 2008 has been set to have all violation of probation warrants in PRAWN. The work has just begun and warrants officers over the next several months will pick up all paper warrants at the police departments and make them paperless by entering them into PRAWN. Once scanned, it is anticipated that the quicker retrieval by police will result in improved service and apprehension of clients who are in violation of probation conditions.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN JUDICIAL DIVISIONS: Information Technology (IT) and field staff from CSSD, along with Court Operations personnel, has been instrumental in creating the PRAWN application. The project actively began last August with IT folks working to develop, test, adjust and re test the system to insure accuracy of the data. CSSD staff taking the lead on this project included IT Unit Supervisor Celia Siefert, Chief Probation Officer I Mark Rogers and Adult Probation Officers II Carmen Roda, and Jennifer Billings. Domenic Lombardo of Court Operations is responsible for the daily operations of the PRAWN system. He is a retired Captain from The Southington Police Department and is currently coordinating the training component for the local and state police.

Since going live state wide last month, 977 active VOPs have been entered into the PRAWN system. Of these, 438 have been served: 212 by local police, 198 by CSSD probation and 24 by the Connecticut State Police. These figures are as of

4/16/08 and they are increasing daily as more warrants are scanned into the system and law enforcement and probation staff have access to the information and implement service. CPO Mark Rogers noted that “This project has been very successful due in large part to the support of CSSD field warrant officers who have reacted positively to the new system and made a commitment to learn and implement the new techniques.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, contact Mark Rogers at 860-860-596-4195 or Mark.Rogers@jud.ct.gov.

Suggestions? Questions? Comments? Concerns? Contact us! Rena.Goldwasser@jud.ct.gov
