

Dear Juvenile Court Judicial Officers:

We are pleased to let you know the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee, the DMC Definitions Committee, the Board of Directors of the Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Board of Directors of the Judicial Conference of Indiana recently recommended a rule on collecting disproportionate minority contact (DMC) data be adopted by the Indiana Supreme Court. The Indiana Supreme Court agreed with the recommendation and promulgated this new rule. The rule was in response to the federal requirement to gather DMC data. Indiana put together a workgroup to have useful DMC definitions, which were ultimately approved by the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention.

We have been working with the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to fund a program to extract DMC data from existing data sources and minimize the impact on the local court. We are excited this program development is well underway. Once the courts see their DMC data, it can be used for considering issues involving DMC or for other purposes. In addition, the Indiana General Assembly has already asked for a portion of this data from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute about the number of juvenile waivers and direct file cases (Ind. Code § 5-2-6-24 (e) (3)). This data will allow us all to have actual information on how juvenile courts are performing. The DMC information will be transmitted to the Division of State Court Administration and shared with the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute for purposes of federal funding of juvenile justice efforts in Indiana.

Judge Willis gave an overview of the rule at the Probation Officers Annual Meeting in May. Judge Humphrey, Chair, DMC Definitions Committee will give a presentation at the Juvenile Court Judicial Officers Annual Meeting in June with more details about this new program. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute is planning educational opportunities for Chief Probation Officers about the new rule in the near future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the undersigned or Jeffrey Bercovitz at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Judge James D. Humphrey
Dearborn-Ohio Circuit Court
Chair, DMC Definitions Committee

Mary G. Willis
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