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Probation Departments Exceed 1.2 million CE Check-In Contacts

Probation Departments exceeded 1.2 million CE Check-In contacts during SFY 2020-21. Nearly 40 probation departments used the various messaging services to maintain contact with individuals under probation supervision, including individuals on pretrial release. CE Check-In was implemented in March of 2020 at no expense to local probation departments while COVID-19 Emergency Probation Procedures were implemented through State Director's Memorandum #2020-3. While originally intended for use with low risk caseloads, Check-In has greatly assisted probation departments during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing electronic contact with individuals under supervision to supplement traditional contacts with higher risk cases. CE Check-in allows departments to maintain electronic contact with individuals under supervision through text messaging, as well as alerts, which notify probation officers when clients may be out of compliance.

There are three recorded sessions regarding NY CE Check-In available on the Integrated Justice Portal (IJP): Resources>Reference Library>Probation>Case Management Tools.

Special points of interest:

- > NYS Driver's License Suspension Reform Act
> Domestic Violence Resources
> State Director's Memoranda
> Research In Brief

Individuals Under Probation Supervision Who Owe DNA

Probation departments are the primary collectors of DNA samples, through which numerous serious crimes have been investigated and solved, in New York State. Probation directors were sent a communication from OPCA on June 9 requesting that they re-examine the status of any outstanding DNA samples. Departments are requested to examine caseloads -- particularly individuals whose maximum expiration is nearing or who were discharged from supervision -- and ensure that DNA samples owed are collected in a timely manner. Departments are requested to reach out to such persons and advise

them of their lawful obligation to provide a DNA sample. Individuals who owe DNA samples can be identified through two reports available via the IJP. Departments can run the Probationers That Owe DNA Report for their agency through the following path: Resources> Reporting Services> IPRS Reports> Legacy Reports> Probationer Owes DNA. Also, the DCJS Office of Forensic Services makes available an "Offender Detail For Uncollected DNA Samples" in the IJP at the following path: Resources » Reference Library » DNA Owes List.

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## Individuals Under Probation Supervision Who Owe DNA - Continued

Probation Officers are reminded that DNA collection training is available on the eJusticeNY IJP. To access the training, staff can go to Resources > Reference Library > DNA and select Training Resources from the menu on the left; then click the Convicted Offender DNA Collection Training hyperlink. Please note that users will need to use the Internet Explorer web browser to view the video. Probation Departments are requested to re-

view these reports, and where probation cases are identified as owing DNA (Maximum Expiration Date without Violation of Probation/Declaration of Delinquency's in place,) to implement a collection plan to address any backlog by June 9, 2021. For probation practice questions, please contact Colleen Thorn, Community Correction Representative 2 at (518) 457-7410 or via [email](#).

### OPCA Concludes Second "Decision Points—DUI" Training

OPCA in collaboration with Juliana Taymans, Ph.D., and Steven Swisher, Ph.D., conducted its second week-long certified training in the Decision Points—DUI Curriculum—a cognitive behavioral intervention that addresses criminal thinking and criminal attitudes of individuals under supervision after having been convicted of DWI Crimes. A total of 12 probation officers completed the training and will join 12 probation officers trained in Phase 1. Probation officers certified in the Decision Points Curriculum will lead groups of individuals under supervision for DWI crimes in addressing criminal thinking and attitudes in an effort to change thinking and behavior.

### Probation Youth Justice Best Practice Webinars

The OPCA Juvenile Operations Unit, hosted a Probation Practice and Data Integrity webinar series concerning youth practice throughout the summer of 2020. The series included both best practice and data-focused sessions. The data-focused sessions highlighted efforts to enhance the use of Caseload Explorer with topics including juvenile delinquent case processing in Caseload Explorer: creating the family court folder; juvenile delinquent intake; and development from adolescent/juvenile offender to juvenile delinquent. The best practice webinars highlighted topics including eligibility/suitability, client engagement, case note entries, strategies for working with runaways and changes to the Family Court Act

concerning youth eligibility for adjustment, due to legislative changes that took effect Dec 12, 2019. Each webinar was recorded and is available for viewing in the IJP, with accompanying handouts here: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Presentations. We believe staff will find these webinars informative and practical.

## Domestic Violence Resources Available to Probation Departments

The Domestic Incident Report (DIR) Repository is an essential tool for probation officers and should be consulted in completing the predisposition/sentence investigation and in developing case plans for supervision. Its reference should not be limited to cases involving domestic violence. Probation professionals understand that domestic violence is highly correlated with other crimes and substance use. Department written policies should ensure that all probation officers have access to the DIR and regularly refer to it in their casework.

In April 2016, New York State revised the DIR to enhance effectiveness and ease of use by law enforcement professionals. These improvements made it easier to complete the form accurately and allowed law enforcement to capture additional information to expand the data included in the state's [Domestic Incident Report Repository](#). The DIR Repository is an electronic database that contains DIRs submitted to DCJS by police departments and sheriffs' offices in the 57 counties outside of New York City. The DIR Repository is for law enforcement purposes only; it is not accessible to the public. The last three years (2018-2020) of available data show that probation departments

use the repository more than other law enforcement agencies. In 2020, there were 106,964 total DIR searches and 31,005 (30 percent) were searches by probation departments. It is important to use the IJP to determine if an individual has any current or past orders of protection and/or DIRs. Officers are reminded that arrest reports and police officer comments made at the time of the arrest can provide valuable insight into the attitudes and behavior of the client.

Probation  
Response to  
Domestic Violence  
package available  
in the IJP:  
Resources >  
Reference Library  
> Probation >  
Specialized  
Supervision >  
Domestic  
Violence.

There are numerous resources available to probation departments on the DCJS website, as well as the IJP, regarding domestic violence policy/procedure, including the Domestic Violence Screening Instrument-Revised (DVSI-R), webinars and FAQs. For additional information on probation's role in the management of domestic violence offenders, please refer to the Probation Response to Domestic Violence package available in the IJP: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Specialized Supervision > Domestic Violence.

## OASAS 2021 Opioid Training Recording Available

On June 3, OPCA hosted training with the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) on the opioid epidemic during the COVID-19 crisis and treatment services available to New Yorkers. The pandemic has undoubtedly and sadly contributed to an increase in personal isolation, and many agencies have reported increased alcohol and drug use. State and local treatment providers have made great efforts to expand services by including mobile service delivery and tele-medicine/treatment practice services for New Yorkers in need.

During this presentation, OASAS Associate Commissioner Steven Hanson provided participants with an overview of the following topics:

- Overdose Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic,
- Drugs Involved in Overdose Deaths, and
- Treatment Options and Resources Available for Recovery.

The webinar was recorded and is available on the eJusticeNY IJP: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Trainings.

## Upcoming Webinars: Ready, Set, Work!, Career University -- Advancing to the Next Level

OPCA will host a webinar on updates to group roster reports for the **Ready, Set, Work!** and **Career University -- Advancing to the Next Level** programs on **Wed., July 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** An announcement will be forthcoming.

OPCA will host a webinar on the **Career University -- Advancing to the Next Level** program to qualify certified *Offender Workforce Development Specialists (OWDS)* in group facilitation. The webinar is scheduled for **Thurs., July 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** An additional announcement will be issued.

OPCA will also be hosting its second virtual OWDS-certified 180-hour training **Aug. 23 to 27, Oct. 18 to 22 and Dec. 6 to 10 2021**. Additional training dates and times will be scheduled. An announcement with more information was sent to all probation departments on June 22, 2021.

### State Director's Memoranda

The following State Director's Memoranda are available through the IJP: Resources > Reference Library > Probation > Director's Memoranda

- State Director's Memorandum #2021-5: "Leandra's Law" Implementation-Ignition Interlock Program Annual Report (January 1 - December 31, 2020)
  - The reports can be found on the eJusticeNY IJP: Resources> Reference Library> Probation> Director's Memos
- State Director's Memorandum #2021-6: Critical Incident Reporting – Updated Policy and Procedures and New Forms: OPCA 670A and 670B Forms. **Please note that this memorandum supersedes State Director's Memorandum #2019-06.**

### OPCA Training Updates

OPCA launched its second entirely virtual Officer Safety and Survival Training (OOST)/ Fundamentals of Probation Practice (FPP) Academy on June 2. The four-week training consists of pre-recorded modules and live virtual instruction, as well as individual work, group work, case studies and skills practice. It provides state-of-the-art training to new probation officers, consistent with requirements under Title 9 of New York Codes, Rules and Regulations Part 346 (Staff Development Rule) and is designed to teach new probation how to develop and practice skills needed to successfully work with individuals who receive probation services. The class will graduate virtually July 2.

For more information, please contact the [OPCA Training Unit](#).

The Youth Justice Institute convened a three-day virtual forum June 1-3, entitled “Beyond 2020: The Next Normal – COVID-19 & Youth.” The forum brought together researchers, policymakers and practitioners to assess community adaptations implemented during the pandemic and to explore strategies in the youth justice field that are more just, equitable and wellness-oriented than what youth and families experienced before 2020.

If you were unable to attend the "Covid-19 & Youth: Beyond 2020, the Next Normal," the recordings are now available on the [YouTube channel](#).

### Probation Practice Tip – Non-Citizen/Deported Individuals under Supervision

Please contact Gary Govel, Community Correction Representative 3, via [e-mail](#) with any questions or comments.

On April 19, OPCA issued State Director’s Memorandum #2021-4 “Non-Citizen/Deported Probationers”. Probation departments should check the Integrated Probation Registrant System (I-PRS) to confirm if there is a “Deported” banner. For any deported probationers, the supervising probation department shall provide notification to DCJS through the submission of a “Deported Probationer Report”. This report should be submitted monthly, as needed, in an e-mail attachment to [dcjsimmigration@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:dcjsimmigration@dcjs.ny.gov). When deportation data is present on the criminal history, the “Deported” banner will appear on any rap sheet, providing important notification to the law enforcement community.

### Peer Support ListServ

DJCS-OPCA is pleased to announce the Peer Support ListServ became operational in June 2021. The ListServ provides a platform where peer specialists across the state can discuss programming, policies, implementation strategies, support and updates on training. *No confidential information is shared on the ListServ.* There are currently 30 trained peer team specialists contributing to the ListServ. If you are interested in subscribing, please contact [Danielle.Brendese@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Danielle.Brendese@dcjs.ny.gov).



Many thanks to all our trained specialists for your continued commitment in providing peer support services!



*Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program* has been rated promising by the National Institute of Justice Crime Solutions for reducing recidivism. This is an alternative-to-incarceration program designed to respond swiftly (with sanctions) to probation violations of high-risk offenders. Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#), for more information on the National Institute of Justice CrimeSolutions research database.

### Voters’ Rights and Justice-Involved Individuals

On May 4, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to restore voting rights for individuals as soon as they leave state correctional facilities, making New York the 21st state to do so. The bill, introduced by Senator Leroy Comrie and Assemblyman Daniel O’Donnell, expands upon an executive order signed by Governor Cuomo in 2018, which restored voting rights for formerly-incarcerated New Yorkers—but not automatically upon leaving incarceration.

### NYS Driver’s License Suspension Reform Act

The NYS Driver’s License Suspension Reform Act, goes into effect on June 29th and ends license suspension for unpaid traffic fines and fees, retroactively rescinds all failure to pay suspensions and mandates income-based payments plans for VTL fines, fees and mandatory surcharges. The Reform Act does not end suspensions due to driver responsibility assessments, child support, DWI, speeding in a work zone, vehicular homicide, failure to maintain auto insurance, failure to file an accident report and writing bad checks for ticket payments. The Reform Act also sets up a payment schedule where the minimum payment is \$25 a month or 2% of monthly income. More information about the legislation is available [here](#).

### Gun Violence Awareness Month

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month and communities across the country, including those in New York State, have seen an increase in gun violence since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, even as statewide total reported crime remained near historically low levels in 2020. Experts have cited a confluence of factors contributing to this increase: unemployment, closure of schools and other essential programs, and isolation from family, friends and support systems, as well as social unrest in communities. The state currently invests nearly \$28 million in state and federal grants to help local communities in their efforts to reduce shootings and firearm-related homicides and solve, reduce and prevent crime.

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