The National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact

Enhancing Public Safety through Information Sharing

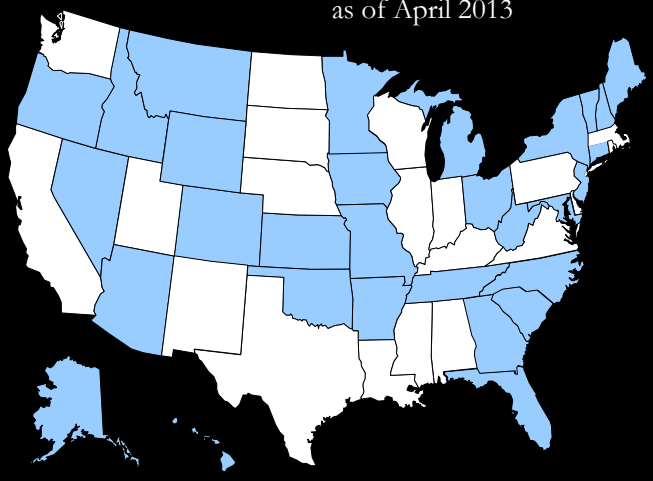
The National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact (Compact)

"Enhancing Public Safety through Information Sharing"

What is the Compact?

The National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact was signed into law on October 9, 1998, facilitating electronic information sharing for noncriminal justice purposes among the Federal Government and the states.

Compact States and Territories
as of April 2013



30 Compact States

Top 3 Incentives

1. Enhancing nationwide public safety by directly providing state criminal history records on an interstate basis for noncriminal justice purposes.
2. Participation in setting policy related to the dissemination of criminal history record information for noncriminal justice purposes.
3. Participation in the National Fingerprint File (NFF) which allows the state to reduce duplicative processes and decrease operational expenses. NFF participation also enhances public safety by providing a signatory state's records when a national fingerprint-based background check is conducted for noncriminal justice purposes such as licensing and employment.

Why was the Compact needed?

It was determined in the late 1970's that state criminal history records were more accurate and complete than records maintained at the national level by the FBI, in that the states may have additional arrest and disposition information. Because states had varying statutes or policies that restricted the dissemination of records for noncriminal justice purposes, it was determined a federal law, or Compact, was necessary to facilitate interstate criminal history record dissemination authority.

What are the benefits of ratifying the Compact to the noncriminal justice community?

Compact ratification benefits the noncriminal justice community as it assures that the most complete and accurate criminal history record is made available for licensing and employment purposes on an interstate basis, thus enhancing public safety by protecting some of our most vulnerable populations such as the disabled, the elderly, and children.

Does ratifying the Compact affect the way a state disseminates records within its borders?

No. The Compact does not require a signatory state to disseminate its records on an intrastate basis differently than it currently does. Intrastate dissemination is based on the signatory state's legislation or executive orders.

The National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council
Compact Council Website: www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/compact-council