

## SEARCH Resolution 02-33

Of the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

January 13, 2002

### **Progress Toward the Decentralization of the Nation's Criminal History System**

**WHEREAS**, the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact was enacted by the Federal government as Title II of the Crime Identification Technology Act of 1998 and became effective after ratification by the second state on April 28, 1999;

**WHEREAS**, 13 states have now adopted the Compact;

**WHEREAS**, the Compact Council created by the Compact is now operational and, thus, together, the Compact and the Compact Council create a legal framework for non-criminal justice use of the Interstate Identification Index (III) System;

**WHEREAS**, because the criminal justice and non-criminal justice components of the III System are now in place, the time is now appropriate for states to participate in the National Fingerprint File (NFF);

**WHEREAS**, under NFF, participating states send fingerprint and biographic information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)/III in connection with an individual's first arrest in the state for a serious offense and, thereafter, the states retain full criminal history record information (CHRI) on the individual at the state level and do not report subsequent events to the FBI/III;

**WHEREAS**, the recent NFF Pilot Project was successful in demonstrating the practicability and efficacy of the NFF program;

**WHEREAS**, NFF implementation provides numerous benefits, including decentralization, cost savings, improvements in CHRI accuracy and completeness and enhanced disaster recovery capabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, some states which have adopted the Compact are now ready, able and willing to assume NFF status;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, that:

1. The FBI is urged to take those steps necessary to resolve any technical or funding problems associated with increasing the number of states that are NFF participants;
2. States that have already adopted the Compact are urged to participate in the activities of the Compact Council and are urged to strengthen their ongoing efforts to support and promote NFF and, as soon as possible, to obtain NFF status;

(More)

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3. Those states that have not yet adopted the Compact are urged to do so as promptly as possible;
4. The Congress is urged to provide funding to assist the FBI and the states to fully implement the III System by supporting the Compact Council and by supporting state efforts to obtain NFF status; and
5. The Compact Council is urged to continue its support to promote the NFF program.”