

Utah Council on Criminal Justice Administration  
Project on Criminal Justice  
Standards and Goals

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

### Technical System Design

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Approved by  
Utah Information Systems Task Force, and  
Utah Council on Criminal Justice Administration  
Room 304 State Office Building  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114



GALVIN L. RAMPTON  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF UTAH  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SALT LAKE CITY

NCJRS

October 22, 1975

RECEIVED

Dear Citizens:

This pamphlet is one of a series of reports of the Utah Council on Criminal Justice Administration. The Council's five Task Forces: Police, Corrections, Judicial Systems, Community Crime Prevention, and Information Systems, were appointed on October 16, 1973 to formulate standards and goals for crime reduction and prevention at the state and local levels. Membership in the Task Forces was drawn from state and local government, industry, citizen groups, and the criminal justice profession.

The recommendations and standards contained in these reports are based largely on the work of the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals established on October 20, 1971 by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. The Task Forces have sought to expand their work and build upon it to develop a unique methodology to reduce crime in Utah.

With the completion of the Council's work and the submission of its reports, it is hoped that the standards and recommendations will influence the shape of our state's criminal justice system for many years to come. Although these standards are not mandatory upon anyone, they are recommendations for reshaping the criminal justice system.

I would like to extend sincere gratitude to the Task Force members, staff, and advisors who contributed something unknown before--a comprehensive, inter-related, long-range set of operating standards and recommendations for all aspects of criminal justice in Utah.

Sincerely,

Governor

# TECHNICAL SYSTEM DESIGN

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## TECHNICAL SYSTEM DESIGN

The establishment and improvement of information and statistics systems require both planning and understanding of the system development process.

Organizational plans should reflect such issues as responsibility for advanced planning, system development, and new operating procedures.

Whether manual or automated, an information system is usually considered to be a component of a larger organism that has certain operating requirements. The information system includes the people, the equipment (or hardware), and the computer language (or software) to satisfy the larger entities operations and management information needs. The primary features of an information system are its inputs, storage capabilities, processing units, outputs, and communication elements.

Standards address the establishment of appropriate communication among local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies in relation to standard data elements, the establishment of specific programming language requirements prior to the initiation of any programming effort, and resources to assure adequate teleprocessing capabilities to satisfy inter- and intra- agency requirements in the design and development of criminal justice information and statistics systems.

### STANDARD 3.1: STANDARDIZED TERMINOLOGY

#### STANDARD

To insure that all Federal Systems receive accurately coded information from the State of Utah, a coding structure should be developed that deals directly with State statutes and provides for the coding of criminal offenses covered under local ordinances that will support the various types of coding structures that exist on the Federal level. The UCJIS coding structure should provide for the translation to Federal level codes at the state level and should not be designed so as to burden user agencies with more than one coding system.

#### UTAH STATUS AND COMMENTS

Criminal justice agencies in the State of Utah use the literal designation of a crime classification which is based on Utah statute or local ordinance. Some agencies will use the NCIC in their code classification on fingerprint cards which are submitted to the Utah Bureau of Identification. The establishment of a Utah Criminal Justice Information System Crime Code, which would be based on state statutes and provides for local ordinance based offenses, is currently under development.

The problem of generating codes on the local level that would feed the multiple sets of codes on the Federal level will be dealt with using the UCJIS coding structure. Since there is more than one coding structure on the Federal level, and it is evident that additional coding structures will be added in the future, the concept of a single coding system for local agencies to utilize, which is based on alws they are charged with enforcing, is far more workable than requiring agencies to deal in cutting systems that have little or no relevance to the legal tasks they are charged with. Under the UCJIS coding structure, codes will be translated to the various Federal level systems as required. This translation process will eliminate involving local agencies in more than one coding system.

### METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

This standard has been identified for implementation through administrative policy.

### STANDARD 3.2: PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

#### STANDARD

Every agency contemplating the implementation of computerized information systems should insure that specific programming language requirements are established prior to the initiation of any programming effort. The Utah Criminal Justice Information System coordination staff should provide the direction concerning programming language requirements already in force, or establish the requirements based on current or projected hardware and programming needs (especially from a system stand point) of present and potential users.

#### UTAH STATUS AND COMMENTS

Currently, the Utah Criminal Justice Information System development team prescribed specific program languages which are used in all modules. The existing standard is COBOL based languages; however, the freedom to select a specific language for a particular program must be maintained to insure speed and efficiency in all operating modules. Criminal Justice Information System modules tend to be very complex, and as a result, emphasis should be placed on efficiency rather than interstate compatability when selecting computer languages.

### METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

This standard has been identified for implementation through administrative policy.

### STANDARD 3.3: TELEPROCESSING

#### STANDARD

The Utah Criminal Justice Information System coordination staff should insure through a statewide criminal justice system telecommunications network that all agencies have contact with the central data bank via voice or computer terminal communications and that emphasis should be placed wherever possible on multiple agency telecommunication service centers. In the telecommunications design attention should be given to other criminal justice information systems (planned or in operation at the national, state, and local levels to insure the design includes provisions for interfacing with other systems as appropriate).

#### UTAH STATUS AND COMMENTS

The Utah Criminal Justice Information System is currently in the process of implementing statewide telecommunications capabilities in all segments of the criminal justice system. Currently, operating in parallel is the Utah Law Enforcement Teletype System which provides inter-agency communications between law enforcement agencies with the state and the Utah Bureau of Identification. After the Utah Criminal Justice Information System Telecommunications network is complete, all administrative message switching will be transferred to computer terminals, and the low speed teletype terminals will be removed from operation. This will, in effect, upgrade the administrative switching capabilities between agencies in the state as well as improve the speed of inter-state switching.

The UCJIS telecommunications concept also provides for multiple agency servicing from one terminal site as opposed to updating individual terminals in each agency. This multiple agency concept will considerably increase the service available to each agency as well as reduce costs for operation of the system.

#### METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

This standard has been identified for implementation through administrative policy.

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## WHAT IS THE UTAH COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION (UCCJA)?

In 1968 the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act was passed resulting in the creation of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) in the U.S. Department of Justice. The act required the establishment of a planning mechanism for block grants for the reduction of crime and delinquency.

This precipitated the establishment of the Utah Law Enforcement Planning Council (ULEPC). The council was created by Executive Order of Governor Calvin Rampton in 1968. On October 1, 1975, the council was expanded in size and redesignated the Utah Council on Criminal Justice Administration (UCCJA).

The principle behind the council is based on the premise that comprehensive planning, focused on state and local evaluation of law-enforcement and criminal-justice problems, can result in preventing and controlling crime, increasing public safety, and effectively using federal and local funds.

The 27-member council directs the planning and funding activities of the LEAA program in Utah. Members are appointed by the governor to represent all interests and geographical areas of the state. The four major duties of the council are:

1. To develop a comprehensive, long-range plan for strengthening and improving law enforcement and the administration of justice . . .
2. To coordinate programs and projects for state and local governments for improvement in law enforcement.
3. To apply for and accept grants from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration . . . and other government or private agencies, and to approve expenditure . . . of such funds . . . consistent with . . . the statewide comprehensive plan.
4. To establish goals and standards for Utah's criminal-justice system, and to relate these standards to a timetable for implementation.



**END**

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