



## POLICY DIRECTIVE

Policy:	<b>DOC 1.5.5A OFFENDER SEARCH WEB APPLICATION</b>
Effective Date:	06/23/2017 <span style="float: right;">Page 1 of 2</span>
Revision Date(s):	04/24/2026
Signature/Title:	/s/ Eric Strauss, Director

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Offender Search web application is an online service that provides public information about adult offenders committed to the Department of Corrections. Offender Search (originally Correctional Offender Network Website) was established in 2002 as part of Montana's E-Government Initiative and was operated by Montana Interactive. In 2021, the State Information Technology Services Division took over operations of Offender Search from Montana Interactive. Offender Search is authorized by the Department Director and maintained according to this policy.

### II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Content

1. All information displayed in Offender Search is public information contained in the offender management system.
2. The offender information displayed in Offender Search includes:
  - a. DOC ID#
  - b. Name
  - c. Profile photo
  - d. Current correctional status
  - e. Last status change
  - f. Gender
  - g. Supervising office and address (for Interstate Compact offenders on probation or parole, only the supervising state is displayed)
  - h. Physical and demographic characteristics
    - 1) Hair and eye color
    - 2) Height, weight, and build
    - 3) Race
    - 4) Skin tone
    - 5) Left or right-handed
    - 6) Year and place of birth
    - 7) Citizenship
    - 8) MT residency status
  - i. Aliases
  - j. Scars, marks, tattoos, and other physical conditions
  - k. Legal record
3. Information that may be public information but has been specifically excluded from Offender Search includes:
  - a. full birth date (as requested by the FBI for identity theft reasons)
4. All adult offenders under Department supervision will be included in the Offender Search until the end of their supervision unless excluded; *see III below*.
  - a. Deceased offender information will remain for a period of 10 days after the offender management system is updated with this information.

### III. EXCLUSIONS

1. Requests for information to be excluded must be submitted to the Communications Director.
2. The Communications Director will forward approved requests to the Information Technology Service Desk for processing.
3. Current exclusions:
  - a. Offenders marked in the offender management system with the Confidential offender flag are suppressed from Offender Search.
  - b. Interstate Compact:
    - 1) inmates in secure facilities are suppressed; and
    - 2) offenders on probation or parole are not.
  - c. Victims who are also offenders under the supervision of the Department are suppressed at the request of the court or law enforcement.
4. Any requests for suppression, removal, or change of information not covered by this policy will be decided by the Department Director on a case-by-case basis.

### IV. DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY

The Department Director has final decision-making authority for the content and management of Offender Search and may confer with the Executive Team and/or Legal Services when making decisions.

### V. CLOSING

Questions about this policy should be directed to the Department Legal Services.