

NEVADA OFFENSE CODE PRESENTATION

Presented to the Advisory Commission on the
Administration of Justice's Subcommittee on Criminal
Justice Information Sharing

Presented by Judy Christenson
Department of Public Safety/Records Communications & Compliance
Division/NOC Unit
April 13, 2018

Overview of a Nevada Offense Code (NOC) and the Nevada Offense Code Unit

The Criminal History Repository has been using Nevada Offense Codes (NOCs) since the inception of the Repository, and the current NOC Model has been in place since 2009. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) took on the task of creating NOCs prior to 2009, after 2009 the Department of Public Safety, Criminal Record Unit began creating NOCs.

The 2015 Legislative Session added two positions within the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History, providing for the creation of what is known as the Nevada Offense Code Unit, which began operation in March of 2016. Prior to the 2015 Session we had a position doing NOCs as an “Other Duties as Assigned” situation, but we realized it was its own program that needed dedicated staff.

The Nevada Offense Code Unit is responsible for the creation of Nevada Offense Codes (NOCs) which are used by Nevada criminal justice agencies to share charge information in disparate criminal justice systems statewide.

Duties of the Nevada Offense Code Unit

- Research NOC requests submitted by the criminal justice community and create NOC if needed.
- Perform maintenance on NOCs as dictated by repealed and/or replaced Nevada statute or city/county ordinances, changes to reporting codes (NCIC, NIBRS, UCR, DMV).
- Disseminate NOC information to members of the Nevada criminal justice community.

- **Purpose of a NOC:** To provide a single, comprehensive code to be used by the Nevada criminal justice community.
- **Intent of the NOC:** To provide electronic sharing of information between all criminal justice agencies.
- **Who uses NOCs:** Law enforcement agencies, Parole & Probation, Courts, Prosecution, Nevada Highway Patrol, Sex Offender Registry, Central Repository, AOC, etc.

The NOC Model allows for the creation of what is commonly referred to as a “Smart NOC”, which is an eleven character code that is eventually mapped to a five character code simply known as a “NOC”.

The “Smart NOC” is where the “comprehensive information” of a code is found.

The following information is included within every Smart NOC:

- Literal crime description
- Crime severity
- Jurisdiction
- Multiple NRS' or city/county ordinances
- National Crime Information Center (NCIC) code
- Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) code
- National Incident Based-Reporting System (NIBRS) code
- Uniform System for Judicial Records (USJR) code
- Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) codes (if traffic offense)
- Retainable or not retainable on criminal history

Components of a Smart NOC

Smart NOC example: A01002A00NV

- **A 01 002 A 00 NV-Murder, 1st degree** (50005)
 - A=Crime against person
 - 01=Homicide
 - 002=Placement within the series
 - A=Severity
 - 00=Enhancement (00 means no enhancement)
 - NV=Jurisdiction
- **Version of the same crime with enhancement**
- **A 01 002 A 45 NV-Murder, 1st degree**-Victim is an older person (50007)
- **A 01 002 A 81 NV-Murder, 1st degree**-With the use of a deadly weapon or tear gas-Victim is an older person (58054)

The Nevada Offense Code Working Group was created to make decisions for the implementation of the NOC program, and to set in place policies and procedures for the creation of Nevada Offense Codes.

Some of the types of decisions made by the group were:

- Whether or not to use the crime description or the penalty as the primary statute for each NOC.
- How the NOC program would handle repealed/and or replaced statutes.

The NOC Working Group no longer meets and was replaced by the Nevada Offense Code Team in 2016.

The Nevada Offense Code Team meets at least two times per year, or more as needed.

The types of issues that the Nevada Offense Code Team discusses and makes decisions on are as follows:

- How to handle new laws that are created by the Legislature, voter initiative, and by local ordinances, and their effect on NOCs.
- Language format to be used in the creation of literal crime descriptions.
- Interpretation of a statute or ordinance.

This concludes my presentation and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Contact Information:

- Email: jchristenson@dps.state.nv.us
- Phone: 775-687-0194