

STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL
STATE OFFICE BUILDING – 10th FLOOR
820 N FRENCH STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801

Telephone: (302) 577-5030
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January 2024

Dear Chief,

The Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013 (DCRA 2013) requires states (along with federal law enforcement and corrections agencies) to report to the Department of Justice deaths that occur in correctional settings and those associated with law enforcement contact.

Under previous versions of the law, this was a research activity carried out by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and that data collection effort had little direct impact on Delaware's law enforcement community. However, DCRA 2013 required states to participate or face a potential reduction of up to 10% of certain federal grant funds. After several years of varying participation by states, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the federal agency assigned to manage the data collection effort, instituted a requirement in 2023 that directed each state to submit a detailed DCRA data collection plan for BJA's review and approval.

At its January 22nd meeting, the Delaware Criminal Justice Council accepted Delaware's DCRA data collection plan, developed, upon my request, by the Delaware Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). Subsequent to the Council's action, we are partnering with the SAC to roll out data collection activities in the law enforcement community.

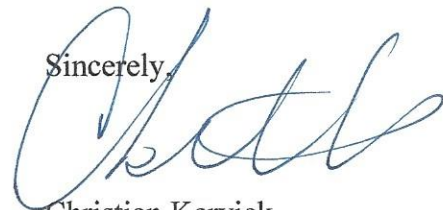
My expectation is BJA will shift its focus to monitoring compliance with plans once they have been adopted. Therefore, I am requesting your help in preserving the approximately million plus dollars in Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne/JAG) dollars we pass along to local agencies; dollars that would be affected should BJA impose a compliance penalty on Delaware. In our role as the State Administering Agency, our goal is to maximize the funding available to the law enforcement community through the Byrne/JAG funding stream.

Enclosed is set of materials that explains the data collection process. Most agencies will only need to submit a very brief form four times a year certifying there have been no deaths reportable under DCRA 2013.

We know we can count on your assistance to maintain the Byrne/JAG funds that directly benefit Delaware's law enforcement community. Please reach out to my office should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and for all that you do to keep our communities and our state safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Kervick', written in a cursive style.

Christian Kervick
Executive Director