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## **Eau Claire Police Department & Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department Join the WIJIS Justice Gateway**

Members of the Eau Claire Police Department and Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department can now leverage the power of the internet in their attempts to build a safer community for Eau Claire residents. Eau Claire Police Department and Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department just joined the Wisconsin Justice Information Sharing (WIJIS) Gateway, a statewide network that allows officers to electronically search the databases of other police departments across the state.

"Sharing data is essential to our mission of reducing crime," said Eau Claire Police Chief Jerry Matysik. "By participating in this network, we will increase our ability to both recognize and intervene in emerging crime trends."

"The WIJIS Gateway significantly improves our ability to share information and collaborate with other law enforcement agencies," said Eau Claire County Sheriff Ron Cramer. "This statewide resource builds on the strong relationships between local law enforcement here in Eau Claire County, and will offer us another tool to keep our communities safe."

The Justice Gateway allows authorized users to electronically search the databases of law enforcement agencies throughout the area and state. With the addition of the Eau Claire Police Department over 100 police and sheriff's departments across the state are connected or in the process of connecting with the Gateway.

"Crime and criminals don't stay within jurisdictional boundaries," said OJA Executive Director David Steingraber. "The Justice Gateway ensures that critical justice data flows across these boundaries more quickly than the criminals do."

The Justice Gateway, developed and operated by the state using federal homeland security and justice funding, is a unique tool that allows police, prosecutors and other justice officials to securely view each other's files and records. The WIJIS Program uses national standards such as the National Information Exchange Model and Internet technologies to allow those computer systems to "talk" to each other seamlessly.

Currently, the Gateway has over 1,400 authorized users who can search over 2.2 million records. By the end of 2008, nearly 5,000 users will have access to close to 5 million records from 130 police and sheriffs departments. Data from 66 District Attorneys offices will also be available in 2008. For more information on the Gateway, visit [OJA.wi.gov/WIJIS](http://OJA.wi.gov/WIJIS) or contact WIJIS Director Jim Pingel at [wijis@wisconsin.gov](mailto:wijis@wisconsin.gov).