



1 S Pinckney Street
Suite 600
Madison WI 53702-0001

Phone: (608) 266-3323
Fax: (608) 266-6676
www.oja.wi.gov

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Contact: Ryan Sugden, Office of Justice Assistance, 608-266-6476

Westby Police Department Joins the WIJIS Justice Gateway

Members of the Westby Police Department can now leverage the power of the internet in their attempts to build a safer community for Westby residents. Westby Police 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.

"The WIJIS system is a time saving tool for the Westby Police Department" said Westby Police Chief Mitch Hundt. "Our Officer's will now have access to vital information across from the state. This information will make our job easier and the Westby community safer."

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 Westby 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 coupled with the most advanced 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 2.3 million records. By the end of 2008, nearly 5,000 users will have access to close to 5 million records from 130 police and sheriff's departments. Data from 66 District Attorneys offices will also be available in 2008. For more information on the Gateway, visit OJA.wi.gov/WIJIS or contact WIJIS Director Jim Pingel at wijis@wisconsin.gov.