



What's New in MAGS

April 2013

On April 15, 2013, a new version of the Maryland Automated Guidelines System (MAGS) was released for immediate use in the Montgomery County Circuit Court. The updated version of MAGS is intended to address issues identified by MAGS users during the MAGS pilot period and provide additional enhancements recommended by the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP). The following is a summary of the most significant changes to MAGS. In addition, the MSCCSP suggests that users reference the MAGS User Manual and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, which have been revised in accordance with the new version of MAGS.

- When a user chooses to sort worksheets from the MAGS Home Screen, worksheets are sorted first by the chosen variable and then by last name (instead of SID).
- The Worksheet Preparer section has been moved from the Departure/Submit screen so that it is now the first section on the Offender Information screen.
- A field has been added under the Total Sentence section of the Offense Sentence screen that enables users to indicate when a life sentence has been imposed. Clicking the check-box next to "Life" automatically populates the Total Sentence with 60 years, since life sentences are assigned a numerical equivalent of 60 years for the purposes of guidelines compliance calculation. Accordingly, the Total Sentence section of the GLS/Overall Sentence screen now contains a field that automatically tallies the total number of life sentences imposed in a case.
- The Home Detention field on the Offense Sentence screen can now accommodate entries containing fractions of a month.
- New pop-up informational boxes have been added on the Offense Sentence screen that provide full descriptions of the calculation of the total sentence, suspended time, credit for time served, home detention time, jail/prison time and guidelines applicable sentence.
- The Offense Sentence screen includes a new section titled "PBJ," where users may indicate if a probation before judgment (PBJ) has been granted for the offense.
- On the GLS/Overall Sentence screen, probation time may be entered in years, months, and/or days. In addition, probation is now a required field.
- In accordance with changes to the victim information questions recently adopted by the MSCCSP, certain questions on the GLS/Overall Sentence and Victim Information screens have been revised.

On the GLS/Overall Sentence screen, the "CICB Costs Imposed" question has been removed and the "Indigence Established" question has been changed to "Victim Court Costs Imposed."

On the Victim Information screen, the following modifications have been made:

- "Victim Unavailable" has been changed to "Victim Non-participation";
- "Notification Request Form Filed" has been changed to "Victim Notification Form";
- "No Contact with Victim" has been changed to "No Contact Requested"; and
- "No Contact Ordered" has been added as a new question.



Pop-up informational boxes have been added next to each question that provide full descriptions of these questions.

- The Departure/Submit screen now explicitly indicates when there is no guidelines departure due to an American Bar Association (ABA)-approved plea.
- Consistent with the rule concerning compliance and credited time, MAGS now automatically determines that there is no guidelines departure for cases where the defendant was sentenced to credit for time served with no additional post-sentence incarceration time and the amount of credited time exceeds the overall guidelines range.
- PDFs of worksheets entered in MAGS now indicate next to the convicted offense title when a sentence enhancement and/or the multiple victim stacking rule has been applied to an offense.
- The font size of the case number has been increased in the PDF worksheet to make this case identifier more easily readable.
- Font colors in the PDF worksheet have been modified to make the information contained in the worksheet more easily readable.