



What's New in MAGS

MAGS 3.0, January 2014

On January 8, 2014, an updated version of the Maryland Automated Guidelines System (MAGS) was released for immediate use in the Montgomery County Circuit Court. MAGS 3.0 provides many enhancements requested by MAGS users and also provides additional improvements 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.

- MAGS, as well as the Guidelines Calculator Tool (GLCT), is now compatible with Safari, Google Chrome, and Firefox web browsers.
- Worksheet distribution instructions appear at the bottom of the PDF sentencing guidelines worksheet, thus mimicking the paper guidelines worksheet.
- Cases with no activity (i.e., have not been edited or saved) are automatically deleted by MAGS after 180 days. This enhancement was provided to “clean out” cases that were initiated, but not completed.
- The format of the PDF sentencing guidelines worksheet now reflects the version of the worksheet currently in use at the time of worksheet submission. Thus, changes to the sentencing guidelines worksheet that went into effect on April 15, 2013 will not appear on the PDF worksheet for submissions prior to April 15, 2013.
- For sample worksheets completed using the GLCT, incomplete fields appear blank, as opposed to being pre-populated with null or zero values, in the PDF worksheet.
- Similarly, sentence and departure information appear blank, as opposed to being pre-populated with default values, in the PDF worksheet if this information has not yet been completed in MAGS. Accordingly, a blank sentence field will be an indicator that a printed guidelines worksheet is a draft in progress.
- The Economic Loss field in the PDF sentencing guidelines worksheet was extended to accommodate entries greater than seven digits in length.
- For sentence fields that are automatically calculated by MAGS, the system assumes 30.417, as opposed to 30, days in a month (and therefore 365 days in a year). This change is intended to prevent MAGS from recognizing sentences of 360 to 364 days as greater than one year.
- Pop-up informational boxes providing expanded explanations were added for the “Add New” button and Attempt, Conspiracy, and Solicitation and Disposition Type fields in MAGS. The “Add New” informational box will provide a table that describes when a sentencing guidelines worksheet is required.



- When a user flags an offense for the multiple victim stacking rule on the Offense/Offense Score screen, an alert message appears explaining that the multiple victim stacking rule can only be applied when there is a single criminal event with multiple unique victims and not more than one seriousness category I or II offense.
- When a user marks a sentence for an offense as consecutive to another count in MAGS, an alert message appears explaining that the sentences for both counts must be marked as consecutive in order for the consecutive nature of the sentences to be reflected in the GLS/Overall Sentence screen.
- The Offense/Offense Score screen automatically appears as a full-size window when opened from the List of Offenses screen.
- Corrected a glitch whereby hitting “Save” after submission would inadvertently mark the worksheet as not submitted.