



## Maryland Automated Guidelines System (MAGS) Development and Implementation Timeline, 2012-Present

**January 27, 2012:** The Administrative Office of Court approved the planned pilot project for MAGS in the Montgomery County Circuit Court (MCCC).

**May 8, 2012:** The MCCC began a six-month pilot project for MAGS.

**September 24, 2012:** The Administrative Office of the Courts approved the MSCCSP request to continue utilizing the MAGS application in the MCCC after the conclusion of the six-month pilot period on November 7, 2012.

**February 22, 2013:** The MCCC completed an evaluation of the MAGS pilot project. The report was distributed to the AOC, MSCCSP Commissioners, and the Conference of Circuit Judges (CCJ).

**March 18, 2013:** Researchers from the MCCC provided a presentation to the CCJ summarizing the findings of the evaluation of the MAGS pilot project.

**April 15, 2013:** The MSCCSP released an updated version of MAGS (2.0).

**September 16, 2013:** The AOC granted permission for the continued use of MAGS in the MCCC beyond the extended pilot period.

**October 16, 2013:** The MCCC provided a review of the extended MAGS pilot project. The review included three recommendations:

1. MAGS should be permanently utilized at the MCCC and expanded to other circuit courts.
2. Develop MAGS business protocol and performance goals.
3. Integrate MAGS into the statewide case management system.

**January 8, 2014:** The MSCCSP released an updated version of MAGS (3.0).

**January 27, 2014:** Dr. Soulé met with the CCJ to provide an update on the MAGS project. The CCJ approved the following actions:

1. Adopting permanent use of MAGS in the MCCC.
2. Gradually rolling-out MAGS in the remaining circuit courts.
3. Moving ahead with the Calvert County Circuit Court (CCCC) as the next jurisdiction to adopt use of MAGS.

**May 19, 2014:** Minor programming updates.

**June 2, 2014:** The CCCC began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**September 25, 2014:** The MSCCSP, in consultation with the AOC, developed a proposed timeline for deployment of MAGS to the remaining jurisdictions, whereby MAGS will be deployed on a circuit-by-circuit basis. The proposed schedule designates the remaining jurisdictions will deploy MAGS in three-month intervals, with the hope of statewide implementation of MAGS in four to five years.



**December 22, 2014:** Minor programming updates.

**March 2, 2015:** The Frederick County Circuit Court began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**June 1, 2015:** The MSCCSP released an updated version of MAGS (4.0).

**July 1, 2015:** The Charles County Circuit Court began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**October 1, 2015:** The Prince George's County Circuit Court began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**October 22, 2015:** The Office of the Attorney General began use of MAGS to initiate sentencing guidelines worksheets for cases prosecuted by their office in those jurisdictions that have adopted use of MAGS.

**December 1, 2015:** The St. Mary's County Circuit Court began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**January 1, 2016:** The Cecil County Circuit Court began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**April 1, 2016:** The Harford County Circuit Court began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**June 1, 2016:** The MSCCSP released an updated version of MAGS (5.0).

**October 1, 2016:** The Baltimore County Circuit Court began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**January 1, 2017:** The Allegany County Circuit Court and the Garrett County Circuit Court began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**April 1, 2017:** The Washington County Circuit Court deployed MAGS for the initiation and submission of sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**July 1, 2017:** The Circuit Courts for Caroline County and Talbot County began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**October 1, 2017:** The Circuit Courts for Kent County and Queen Anne's County began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**January 1, 2018:** The Circuit Courts for Dorchester County and Somerset County began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**February 1, 2018:** The MSCCSP released an updated version of MAGS (6.0). MAGS 6.0 provides updates requested by MAGS users, as well as additional enhancements identified by the MSCCSP. Additional



enhancements include sentences to a *corrections options* program being flagged as guidelines-compliant if necessary criteria are met, the limiting of the multiple victim stacking enhancement to single criminal events with not more than one seriousness category I or II offense, a pre-populated Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) case number prefix for jurisdictions utilizing the MDEC system, revisions to specific language on both the *Offense Sentence* screen and *Victim Information* tab to provide greater clarity to practitioners, and finally, the relocation of the *Victim Information* tab to encourage completion by both the worksheet preparer and judge or judge's designee.

**April 1, 2018:** The Circuit Court for Wicomico County began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**July 1, 2018:** The MSCCSP released an updated version of MAGS (7.0). MAGS 7.0 updates the instructions for the juvenile delinquency scoring component of the offender score to reflect the revised juvenile delinquency score, adopted effective July 1, 2018.

**July 1, 2018:** The Circuit Court for Worcester County began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**October 1, 2018:** The Circuit Court for Howard County began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**January 1, 2019:** The Circuit Court for Carroll County began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**April 8, 2019:** The Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**July 1, 2019:** The MSCCSP released an updated version of MAGS (8.0). MAGS 8.0 includes the following updates:

- A revised *Offender Information* screen to include the Office of the Maryland State Prosecutor as a designated worksheet preparer agency.
- Modified race categories on the *Offender Information* screen to mirror those required by State Government (SG) Article, § 10-603, and to allow for multiracial responses.
- For jurisdictions that recently begun utilizing the Maryland Electronic Courts system (MDEC) (i.e. Baltimore County, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties), the *Case #* field on the *Offense/Offense Score* screen will pre-populate with the MDEC prefix corresponding to the user's jurisdiction.
- A revised *Offense/Offense Score* screen to provide clarifying instructions regarding the application of the multiple victim stacking rule (MVSR) and to allow the MVSR to be applied in sentencing events involving multiple criminal events.
- Automatically updates individual and/or overall guidelines ranges when relevant portions of the worksheet (e.g., components of the offender score), or when a merged/nolle prosequi offense is deleted from the *List of Offenses* tab. Prior versions of MAGS required users to open the *Offense/Offense Score* screen for one of the remaining offenses and click *Calculate Guidelines Range* so the guidelines would be adjusted after deleting one or more convicted offenses or updating the offender score. MAGS 8.0 completes these updates immediately without requiring the extra step.



- The *Subsequent Offender Filed* and *Restitution Requested* fields were removed from the *Offense Sentence* screen.
- The *GLS/Overall Sentence* screen now separates *reconsiderations* (for crimes of violence as defined under § 14–101 of the Criminal Law Article) and *three-judge panel reviews* from the other disposition types. Separating out reconsiderations and reviews allows users to indicate both how the case was disposed (plea or trial) as well as whether or not the sentencing was a reconsideration or review.
- The *Corrections Options* field has been moved from the *GLS/Overall Sentence* screen to a new *Alternatives to Incarceration* screen. The *Alternatives to Incarceration* screen was created to collect additional sentence information, specifically the use of various corrections options programs and other alternatives to incarceration.

**October 1, 2019:** MAGS was updated to include a “SUBMITTED” stamp along with the corresponding date to indicate the completed submission of a worksheet. This notation was added in response to requests from practitioners for an indicator signifying that the PDF or hard copy of the worksheet is the official version that has also been electronically submitted.

**October 1, 2019:** The Circuit Court for Baltimore City began use of MAGS to initiate, edit, and submit all official sentencing guidelines worksheets.

**February 1, 2020:** The MSCCSP released an updated version of MAGS (9.0). MAGS 9.0 includes the following updates:

- Part A of the offender score, the defendant’s relationship to the criminal justice system (CJS), may differ across offenses in multiple offense sentencing events.
- Users have the ability to remove sentence information from the worksheet by selecting the trashcan icon that appears next to each offense on the *Sentence* screen.

**November 5, 2020:** The MAGS User Manual was updated to provide clarifying instructions regarding the convicted offense information in MAGS. MAGS users are asked to record the event number and count associated with the offense as it corresponds to the charging document. While the count does not impact guidelines calculation, it is important for record keeping purposes that the count number entered in MAGS match the count number in the charging document.

**April 1, 2021:** The MSCCSP released an updated version of MAGS (10.0). MAGS 10.0 includes the following updates:

- *Ethnicity* and *Race* were changed to mandatory fields on the *Offender Information* tab. An “Unknown” option was also added to the *Ethnicity* field.
- Consistent with new instructions adopted April 1, 2021, regarding guidelines-compliant binding pleas, the *Disposition Type* field on the *GLS/Overall Sentence* tab was updated to replace the former “ABA plea agreement” disposition type with “MSCCSP binding plea agreement” and the former “Non-ABA plea agreement” was replaced with “Other plea agreement”.
- MAGS will indicate that a sentence is not a guidelines departure when the case has been adjudicated via an MSCCSP binding plea by displaying “(MSCCSP Binding Plea)” in red next to “No” for Departure on the Departure/Submit tab.
- Users can enter sentences that fall below non-suspendable mandatory minimums, if the offense involves an “attempt” or “conspiracy”.



- Additional language has been added to the *Alternatives to Incarceration* tab to clarify that a defendant's pre-sentence participation in drug court or other problem-solving court constitutes a "Corrections Options Program" and should be marked accordingly in MAGS.
- The **Days Calculator** on the *Individual Offense Sentence* screen has been revised to mirror how credit for time served is calculated in Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC), in that the start date and end date are included when calculating the number of days served. The judges and/or attorneys are responsible for determining the official number of days of credit.