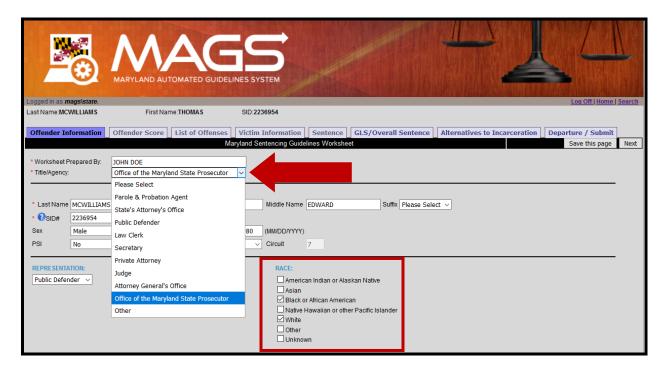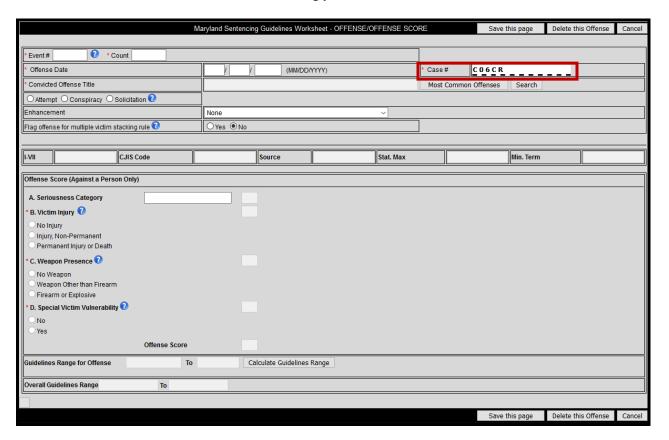# *What's New in MAGS*
MAGS 8.0, July 2019

On July 1, 2019, an updated version of the Maryland Automated Guidelines System (MAGS, version 8.0) was released for immediate use. The following is a summary of the changes to MAGS. In addition, the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) suggests that users reference the MAGS User Manual and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents, which have been revised in accordance with the new version of MAGS and are available on the MSCCSP website, www.msccsp.org.

- The *Offender Information* screen was updated to include the Office of the Maryland State Prosecutor as a designated "worksheet preparer" agency. Additionally, the race categories on the *Offender Information* screen were modified to mirror those required by State Government (SG) Article, § 10-603, and now provide for multiracial responses.

- For jurisdictions that have more 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. Case numbers that are assigned using the new MDEC format should be entered into MAGS using the following format:

  - CJJCRYY######
  - Where JJ= 2-digit jurisdiction code,
  - And YY= filing year.

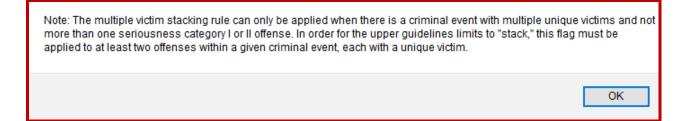4511 Knox Road, Suite 309 • College Park, MD 20742-8660 • (301) 403-4165 / phone

- The MSCCSP clarified instructions regarding the application of the multiple victim stacking rule (MVSR) and revised the *Offense/Offense Score* screen to allow the MVSR to be applied in sentencing events involving multiple criminal events. The MVSR provides for an enhanced sentencing guidelines range in scenarios where multiple victims are involved. When there is a criminal event with multiple victims and not more than one seriousness category I or II offense, the individual completing the sentencing guidelines worksheet should add or "stack" the highest of the upper guidelines limit for each offense with a unique victim when determining the overall range for the criminal event.

When a user flags an offense for the multiple victim stacking rule on the *Offense/Offense Score* screen, an alert message will appear, reminding practitioners of the conditions under which the MVSR can be applied.

If the circumstances of the sentencing event do not meet the aforementioned criteria for the MVSR, users will receive the following alert message, and the stacking rule will be disabled.

- The individual and/or overall guidelines range will **automatically** update on the *List of Offenses* screen after the user edits a relevant part 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.
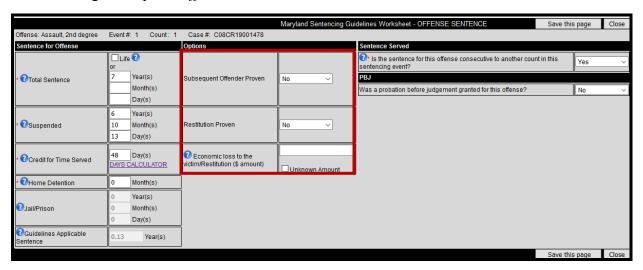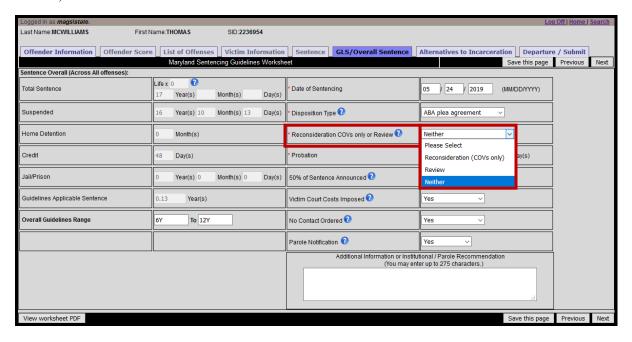

If edits are made to an entered offense on the *Offense/Offense Score* screen (e.g., modifications to the convicted offense title or offense score), users are still required to click the "Calculate Guidelines Range" button, to ensure that both the individual guidelines range for the offense and the overall guidelines range for the sentencing event is properly calculated.

- The *Subsequent Offender Filed* and *Restitution Requested* fields were removed from the *Offense Sentence* screen. Users should, however, continue to make appropriate selections with regards to the remaining *Subsequent Offender Proven* and *Restitution Proven* fields.

- 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. Users must now indicate whether the sentencing event involved a sentence reconsideration to a crime of violence (as defined in CR, §14-101), a three-judge panel review, or neither.

- 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. Users must indicate whether the offender was sentenced to a corrections options program (as defined under Commission criteria) or some other alternative to incarceration by selecting "Yes" or "No" from the corresponding drop down menu. If the offender was not ordered to participate in any such program, users should select "No" from the drop down menu, and the program selections will be disabled. If the offender was ordered to participate in a corrections options program and/or some other alternative to incarceration, users should select "Yes" from the drop down and then continue to select all of the programs that apply. The *community service* and *fine* fields have also been moved from the *GLS/Overall Sentence* screen to the *Alternatives to Incarceration* screen, as these are additional alternatives to incarceration that may be utilized at sentencing.