


<div>California Department of Justice CALIFORNIA JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION Veronica Gilliard, Chief/CIO</div> <div></div>	<div><b>INFORMATION BULLETIN</b></div>
<div>Subject:  Updated Guidance on Agencies Authorized to Obtain Information from California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS)</div>	
<div>No. 25-06-CJIS</div> <div>Date: 07-22-2025</div>	<div>Contact for information:  CLETS Administration Section (CAS) at <a href="mailto:cas@doj.ca.gov">cas@doj.ca.gov</a></div>

**TO: ALL CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

This Information Bulletin (IB) supersedes Information Bulletin No. CJIS-24-11, issued on August 22, 2024, titled “Agencies Authorized to Obtain Information from California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS).” The purpose of this update is to incorporate changes to the law effectuated by Assembly Bill No. 354 (2025-2026 Reg. Sess.), which took effect on July 14, 2025, is codified at Government Code § 15169 and Penal Code §§ 13500, 13510.8, and 13510.9, and grants the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) access to CLETS information.

Law enforcement agencies authorized by the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to access CLETS must adhere to all state and federal statutes, regulations, and policies governing criminal justice information, including the CLETS Policies, Practices and Procedures (PPP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services Security Policy (CJISSECPOL), version 6.0, dated December 27, 2024. Adherence to these authorities is essential to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the information contained within the criminal justice information system.

Under Penal Code section 11077, DOJ has primary responsibility for protecting the security of criminal offender record information in California. Government Code section 15153 requires DOJ to oversee the operation of CLETS and, in consultation with an advisory committee, to enforce and establish policies for access to CLETS. (See CLETS PPP.) Additionally, federal statutes, regulations, and policies govern access to criminal justice information systems, like CLETS, and the information derived from those systems. (See, e.g., 28 U.S.C. § 534; 28 C.F.R. Part 20 et seq.; FBI CJISSECPOL.) Under CLETS PPP section 1.6.4, and as required by federal law, “[o]nly authorized law enforcement, criminal justice personnel or their lawfully authorized designees may use a CLETS terminal or have access to information derived from CLETS.”

**Law enforcement agencies** that are authorized to access CLETS are defined as those agencies “having statutory powers of arrest and whose primary function is that of apprehension and detection.” Such agencies include “sheriffs, city police departments, California Highway Patrol, Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.” (CLETS PPP, § 1.3.1.A; see also 28 C.F.R. § 20.3, subd. (b) and (g); FBI CJISSECPOL, § 3.2.4.)

**Criminal justice agencies** that are authorized to access CLETS are defined as those “whose primary purpose is detention, pretrial release, post-trial release, prosecution, adjudication, correctional supervision, rehabilitation of accused persons or criminal offenders, criminal identification activities, and the collection, storage and dissemination of criminal history record information. Such agencies include “district attorneys, courts, probation departments, and other miscellaneous local, state and federal agencies performing such functions.” (CLETS PPP, § 1.3.1.B; see also 28 C.F.R. § 20.3, subd. (b) and (g); FBI CJISSECPOL, § 3.2.4.)

Law enforcement agencies may sometimes receive requests for CLETS information from the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). These requests might seek unredacted CLETS information, including an individual’s confidential state or federal criminal history information and other protected data.

**Under Assembly Bill No. 354 (2025-2026 Reg. Sess.), POST has now been deemed a “criminal justice agency” for purposes of receiving CLETS-derived information from California law enforcement agencies.** Specifically, POST may obtain:

- criminal history information
- criminal offender record information
- criminal justice information
- CLETS-derived information
- any other information that would otherwise be confidential, privileged, or subject to any other restriction.

(See Gov. Code, § 15169; Pen. Code, §§ 13500, subd. (f), 13510.8, subd. (c)(2), and 13510.9, subd. (c)(2).)

Law enforcement agencies may sometimes also receive requests for CLETS information from other agencies that have not been considered criminal justice agencies, such as local civilian oversight boards. However, local civilian oversight boards are neither a law enforcement agency nor a criminal justice agency, as defined under state and federal authorities. Thus, they do not meet the conditions for accessing CLETS or CLETS-derived information upon request.

If California law enforcement agencies fail to comply with federal statutes, regulations, and policy, the FBI has the authority to ban all California law enforcement agencies from accessing federal criminal justice information. Notwithstanding the above, local civilian oversight boards may access CLETS and CLETS-derived information through a validly issued subpoena or other court order. (See generally, CLETS PPP, § 1.6.4.C.; FBI CJISSECPOL, § 4.1.) Law enforcement agencies must provide CLETS and CLETS-derived information in response to a validly issued subpoena or court order unless they obtain judicial relief from that subpoena or court order.

Law enforcement and criminal justice agencies may contact DOJ's CLETS Administration Section (CAS) regarding this bulletin or the CLETS PPP at [cas@doj.ca.gov](mailto:cas@doj.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Veronica Gilliard*

VERONICA GILLIARD, Chief/CIO  
California Justice Information Services Division

For ROB BONTA  
Attorney General