

MICHAEL L. PARSON
Governor

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Director



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**STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

October 21, 2021

Law Enforcement Agency:

In December 2014, Congress enacted the *Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013* (DCRA). DCRA requires states and federal law enforcement agencies to report to the U.S. Department of Justice information regarding the death of any person who is (1) detained by law enforcement; (2) under arrest; (3) in the process of being arrested; (4) en route to being incarcerated or detained; or (5) incarcerated at any correctional facility, including contract facilities. Collectively, all five of these circumstances are referred to as “deaths in custody”.

The DCRA authorized the U.S. Attorney General to withhold up to 10% of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program funds from states that do not comply with DCRA reporting requirements. The JAG Program is administered within the State of Missouri by the Department of Public Safety. The JAG monies are used to fund the multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, the purchase of officer safety equipment, and other important criminal justice initiatives.

As the State Administrative Agent (SAA) of Missouri’s JAG Program funds, beginning October 1, 2019, the Department of Public Safety was required to collect and report on all deaths in custody within the State of Missouri. Attached is the Death in Custody Reporting Act data collection template. If your agency experiences a death in custody event, I would ask for your timely cooperation and submission of such information via email to dpjscjle@dps.mo.gov or via fax to (573) 522-1908. Joni McCarter, Grants Program Manager for the Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement (CJ/LE) Unit, will be the liaison for such data collection.

If you have questions regarding death in custody data or reporting, please contact Joni McCarter via email at joni.mccarter@dps.mo.gov or via phone at (573) 526-9020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra K. Karsten".

Sandra K. Karsten, Director
Missouri Department of Public Safety

Attachment