



MAGISTRATE VIDEO PROJECT

IMPORTANT STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2019

68 Counties and districts approved by senior resident superior court and chief district court judges to use MVP procedures

51 Counties implemented

126 County and local law enforcement agencies with MVP capability

WHAT USERS ARE SAYING

Thomasville Police Department Captain

"It's used from A to Z. If we had someone in here for a minor offense or armed robbery, we still use it. It's used every time an arrest is made. This system saves time and expense. We can handle all of that right here."



Initially piloted in 2012, the Magistrate Video Project (MVP) provides software and equipment for video communications between a magistrate and local law enforcement officers. The video software runs on a laptop computer, which is standard equipment in magistrates' offices and most law enforcement vehicles. With the addition of wireless capabilities in the car, officers are able to connect with the magistrate from almost any location and at any time of day.

The video technology may be used by law enforcement only for criminal offenses at this time. The processing of involuntary mental commitments and domestic violence orders must still be conducted in person before a magistrate. Currently, the following can be performed by law enforcement officers and the magistrate via video appearances:

- Probable cause determinations for the issuance of criminal processes and search warrants
- Initial appearances following arrest, including the setting of conditions of release

The MVP system's infrastructure requirements and maintenance costs for local law enforcement agencies are very minimal. The video call is hosted on secure computers with cameras and video call software. The software can be downloaded for free, although there is no technical support for this option, or it may be purchased for a minimal monthly charge, which does include technical support. The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) provides software, hardware, technical support, and infrastructure statewide for magistrates using MVP systems.

Local law enforcement agencies realize immediate benefits in cost and efficiency when their county and district court officials approve the use of MVP. It also reduces risk to the officer by eliminating the need to transport the arrestee to the magistrate's office.



Magistrates and court officials are pleased with the flexibility and convenience it provides them and their law enforcement partners. In rural counties where magistrates often operate on an on-call basis, the technology allows magistrates to begin processing an offender remotely. The officer can continue booking the arrestee rather than waiting for the magistrate to drive to the office location.

Adoption of MVP in North Carolina has proven to be a technological and procedural success for the state courts and local law enforcement.

CASE STUDY

In Jackson County, MVP is used between five to 15 times each night for initial appearance or initiation processes. Law enforcement officers are pleased as the system has proven to be a significant time saver.

Jackson County magistrates have found that they are able to conduct initial appearances faster during on-call hours with the video calls than if they were to appear at the jail for each arrest, and it saves magistrates time and money traveling during on-call hours.

Officers say they can serve three to four times the amount of warrants when the on-call magistrate has access to the MVP video technology.

MVP speeds process time for magistrates and travel time for officers. MVP is an example of how technology can make our judicial offices more efficient.

MAGISTRATE VIDEO PROJECT TERRITORIES AUGUST 2019

