Office of the San Diego City Attorney

TRUST ORDINANCE SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES

September 23, 2026

Kendall Amerige
Program Manager

The City of SAN DIEGO

What does the Office of the San Diego City Attorney do?

- The City Attorney is the chief legal advisor and attorney for the City.
- The City Attorney defends the City when it is sued and files lawsuits on behalf of the City or its residents when necessary.
- The City Attorney is also the City's prosecutor.

We will present information on the purpose, use, and access of the following technologies:

- Aggregate Public Records Search Systems (APRSS)
- Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS)
- SDLaw
- Products Received from City Departments
- Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) Query

Aggregate Public Records Search Systems (APRSS)

What is an APRSS?

Aggregate Public Records Search Systems (APRSS) are web-based tools provided by private companies to access public records related to individuals, businesses, addresses, utilities, and assets. The SDCAO currently uses Accurint and the WestLaw PeopleMap applications.

Data available includes:

- Information gathered from consumer credit reporting agencies, but it is not a means for running credit history or credit reports.
- Business and residence addresses, business licenses, bankruptcy filings, vehicle registrations, phone numbers, and property ownership are included in the results.

Aggregate Public Records Search Systems (APRSS)

APRSS Search Capabilities & Results

- Users can search using many identifiers: names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, addresses, businesses, phone numbers, land ownership, email addresses, and social media usernames.
- Systems generate comprehensive, logically organized reports of all related public records.
- Search results represent possible matches and are verified with the original record source when necessary.

Aggregate Public Records Search Systems (APRSS)

Purpose for APRSS

- APRSS is a valuable resource for the SDCAO Civil Divisions in conducting case-related investigations.
- Helps verify facts, identify assets, locate individuals, and understand relationships relevant to litigation.
- Widely used across the legal community.
- APRSS is integral to high-quality case preparation.

Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS)

What is ARJIS?

- The Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS) is a regional criminal justice enterprise network.
- Used by 60+ local, state, and federal agencies across San Diego and Imperial counties.
- ARJIS is managed by a Joint Powers Agency, with the City of San Diego as a member.

Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS)

ARJIS Search Capabilities & Results

- Users can search identifiers such as names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, identification numbers, license plates, and telephone numbers.
- It provides access to regional crime, arrest, and citation data, but also includes limited information on warrants, jail booking information, sex-offender data, DMV information; ARJIS provides access to crime analysis applications.
- Reports are logically grouped and sortable; results are possible matches and are confirmed with source records when necessary.

Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS)

Purpose for ARJIS

- ARJIS supports case investigation by the SDCAO Civil Divisions.
- Used for civil litigation, restraining order matters, and firearms relinquishment efforts.
- ARJIS provides valuable incident information for events such as vehicle accidents, deaths, crimes, and arrests that may be connected to a case, such as a civil suit or a Gun Violence Restraining Order.

SDLaw

What is SDLaw?

- SDLaw is the San Diego County Sheriff's Office extranet platform for shared law enforcement and criminal justice applications.
- Used by local, state, and federal partners throughout San Diego County.
- Hosts applications including the Armed Prohibited Persons System (APPS), eJIMS, eLab Results, eRestraining Order, eWarrant, eSUN, and SDFusion.

SDLaw

SDLaw Search Capabilities & Results

- Users can query identifiers: names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, ID numbers, license plates, and phone numbers.
- SDLaw applications provide various information, including local jail bookings, restraining orders, warrants, and criminal prosecutions.
- Applications display results in logical groupings; results are possible matches and are confirmed at the source when necessary.

SDLaw

Purpose for SDLaw

- The SDCAO Civil Divisions use SDLaw for case investigation in civil litigation, restraining order matters, and firearms relinquishment.

- SDLaw provides valuable information such as driver's licenses, criminal convictions, jail bookings, and registered firearms that may be connected to a case, such as a civil suit or Gun Violence Restraining Order.

Products of Surveillance Technology Received from City Departments

What are Surveillance Technology Products Received from City Departments?

The SDCAO receives products of Surveillance Technology from City Departments to investigate civil claims and legal actions and to respond to litigation discovery demands.

Common examples of these technologies are:

- Body Worn Camera (BWC) evidence stored and encrypted in a secure Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS).
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) video/images/data.

Products of Surveillance Technology Received from City Departments

Purpose for Surveillance Technology Products Received from City Departments

- SDCAO uses Surveillance Technology Received from City Departments to evaluate parties, witnesses, claims, defenses, and damages in active or anticipated litigation.
- It provides critical evidence when City personnel were present at incidents that led to legal action.
- Essential for assessing claims, reducing monetary exposure, identifying frivolous matters, and safeguarding public services and safety.

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) Query

What is FinCEN Query?

- The FinCEN Query Portal is the gateway for authorized federal, state, and local law enforcement and regulatory users to access Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) and FinCEN Query financial data.

- Common documentation includes Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and Currency Transaction Reports (CTRs).

- Information from these reports serve as investigative leads for unusual transaction activity and high-dollar cash transactions, including for cases involving fraud and the sale of banned and illegal substances.

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) Query

Purpose for FinCEN Query

- FinCEN Query is used to investigate consumer cases through financial data; it may develop further investigative leads connected to a case.
- Transactions flagged in Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and other reports can aid in identifying how far-reaching fraud schemes may be.
- Reports of unusual banking activity can help investigators understand how bad actors move and hide proceeds from illegal activity.
- Financial data can assist investigators in connecting bad actors who may be working together to defraud the public.

Access & Authorization for Surveillance Technologies

- All SDCAO employees must pass a background investigation, with those authorized to access these technologies receiving training specific to the parameters of their use.
- Employees must be authorized to access a system based on their job duties **and** only for specific assigned cases or tasks.
- Computers that access the technologies are located in secure, access-controlled City Attorney facilities; when working outside a City Attorney facility, users may only access the technologies through a secure Virtual Private Network connection using multi-factor authentication.

Responsible Use Expectations for Surveillance Technologies

- Technology systems must be used solely for official SDCAO work.
- All searches must be tied to a legitimate, assigned work purpose; each query or request for law enforcement information requires providing a specific case number or case name for a specific civil case.
- All queries in data systems are recorded within the application and available for audit by the designated account manager.
- This supports accuracy, accountability, and ethical investigative practice.

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