NIBRS Coding Scenarios

Residency Status of Arrestee or Victim

Issue: Agencies have been debating whether a person is considered a resident or a non-resident.

The FBI manual states: “A Resident is a person who maintains his/her permanent home for legal purposes in the locality (i.e., town, city, community) where the crime took place. Note: Reporting agencies should base their determinations of residency on the town, city, or community where the crime occurred rather than the responding agency’s broader geographical jurisdictions.”

Example: A family lives outside the city limits of Pierre, SD by about 35 miles but their mailing address is Pierre, SD. Their residency for NIBRS would not be Pierre because the police department would not respond to a call to their farm if something happens. They are a resident of Sully County and the Sully County Sheriff’s Office would be the one that would respond to calls in this area. Now, if the family is in the City of Pierre and someone breaks into their car, Pierre PD would take the report but since they do not live in the city limits the PD should not identify them as a resident.

Agencies should use their discretion in this rather than mark “unknown” in this field. The basic rule of thumb is if you live outside of the city limits and a crime occurs to you inside the city, then the city police department reports you as a non-resident. If the sheriff's department responds to the same crime inside the city, then they would report you as a resident because you live within their jurisdiction. The determination is whether or not you live within the officer's jurisdiction.

Reference: *NIBRS Volume I: Data Collection Guidelines (blue cover), Resident Status (of Victim), page 93; and Resident Status (of Arrestee), page 104.*

2010 NIBRS Classes Scheduled

NIBRS I, NIBRS II & NIBRS Coding Scenarios will be held September 1 & 2, 2010.

Please mark your calendars.

Note that the preceding gives general examples. It is not meant to be all inclusive. Coding is based on individual case circumstances. Please direct NIBRS questions to:

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