

STATE OF TENNESSEE
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
425 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

March 31, 2000

Opinion No. 00-056

Responsibility for FBI R-84 Disposition Report

QUESTION

Who is responsible for completing the Federal Bureau of Investigation's R-84 Disposition Report?

OPINION

Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-4-115 requires the local law enforcement agency responsible for booking the defendant to complete the R-84 Disposition Report.

ANALYSIS

The FBI R-84 Disposition Report is used to track the final disposition of a defendant following his arrest. The instructions on the report suggest that the arresting agency should fill in all arrest data and obtain fingerprints, and that the report should be forwarded to the next appropriate office for completion as the defendant's case progresses through the system.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-4-115 provides for standardized booking procedures for arrestees. Section (a)(1)(C) specifically provides that instead of the R-84 report being forwarded to the court for entry of judgment, the court shall deliver "to the appropriate local law enforcement agency a completed judgment order signed by a judge to be used by the local law enforcement agency for completion of an R-84 Disposition Card." Therefore, Tennessee law shifts the responsibility to the local law enforcement agency responsible for booking the defendant to ensure completion of the R-84 Disposition Report. Since the Compiler's Notes of Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-4-115 state that the purpose of the statute is to ensure that dangerous felons are tracked in the system and since the statute provides penalties for non-compliance, it appears that the requirement that the appropriate local law enforcement agency complete the R-84 Disposition Report is mandatory.

PAUL G. SUMMERS
Attorney General and Reporter

MICHAEL E. MOORE
Solicitor General

DAVID H. FINDLEY
Assistant Attorney General

Requested by:

Honorable Jim. T. Hamilton
Circuit Judge, 22nd Judicial District
22 Public Square, Suite 3
Columbia, TN 38402