



Michigan State Police
Criminal Justice Information Center



Exceptional Clearance

There are only two ways to “clear” incidents that affect an agency’s clearance rate in the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting (MICR) Program:

- Arrest
- Exceptional Clearance

To use Exceptional Clearance, **ALL of the following MUST apply:**

- Investigation must clearly and definitively establish the identity of at least one offender
- Sufficient probable cause must support the arrest, charging, and prosecution of the offender
- Exact location of the offender must be known so an arrest could be made
- There must be a reason outside the control of law enforcement that prevents the arrest:
 - Death of the Offender
 - Prosecution Declined (other than lack of probable cause)
 - In Custody of Other Jurisdiction
 - Victim Refused to Cooperate (in the prosecution)
 - Juvenile/No Custody

Example A:

- Jack Smith was seen on camera committing an armed robbery
- Jack is a white male, 29 years old, date of birth (DOB) 4/09/90, lives at 11 Flower, Holt, MI
- Two months later, Jack Smith was arrested for a homicide in Mackinac County
- The robbery incident is updated with Exceptional Clearance “In Custody of Other Jurisdiction”
- The robbery incident is cleared for MICR purposes
- Mackinac County creates a NEW homicide incident; this incident is cleared by arrest

Example B:

- Jill Jones was accused of committing a retail fraud at Wal-Mart
- Jill is a black female, approximately 30 years of age, and is believed to live in Isabella Co.
- The case is not cleared for MICR purposes because the investigation has not:
 - Clearly established Jill’s identity, DOB, etc.
 - Determined the exact location of Jill’s whereabouts to make an arrest
- If additional investigation is conducted and the above information is learned, an arrest can be made, OR an exceptional clearance entered depending on the circumstances

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