



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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