

Standards report: Electronic Fingerprint Submission Specification

Livescan (electronic fingerprint) technology offers a significant opportunity to improve the criminal justice system in Illinois. The Illinois State Police supports and encourages implementation of this technology, with the intent to totally automate the capture and processing of fingerprint submissions. Major efforts have been, and continue to be, underway at both the Illinois State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to improve the quality, timeliness, and usability of criminal history record information which are based upon livescan technology.

As law enforcement agencies contract with livescan vendors, they are provided with the Illinois Electronic Fingerprint Submission Specification (EFSS) as a road map used by the livescan vendors for the electronic submissions of fingerprints. The EFSS extends the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Electronic Fingerprint Transmission Specification (EFTS) which contains standards such as basic data formatting, fingerprint compression standards and imaging standards for electronic mug shots. The EFSS is used by the livescan vendors to correctly format the data record, attach the appropriately compressed fingerprints and connect to the Illinois Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) to properly transmit the data packet.

Illinois currently has over 300 livescan machines in use and all the sites (whether law enforcement or civilian) must comply with the EFSS standards in order to be certified as a Livescan Agency and thereby allowed to transmit data to the AFIS. To that end, it is the recommendation of the IIJIS Technical Committee to adopt the EFSS, authored by the Illinois State Police, as the de facto standard for transmitting electronic fingerprint submissions within the State of Illinois.