McMinnville PD

CHIEF's VIEW ON EVIDENCE LIABILITY
Becoming Proactive to Reduce Risks…

Achieved goals and more...

- Becoming a Proactive Agency not Reactive in Regard to Evidence

- Reduced Liability and Improved Integrity

- Reliable Solutions to Easily Track Evidence During a Move and Beyond

- Reliable and Secure Chain of Custody

- Access to Unlimited Report Options Instantly

- Ability to Perform Audits Easily

- Ability to Purge Regularly

- Endless Customization Options

- Easy to Learn and Use

OREGON CHIEF VIEWS EVIDENCE AS 'HIGH LIABILITY' AND URGES OTHER CHIEFS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT. The head of any law enforcement agency, whether he is chief of police or the county sheriff, could benefit greatly from having the same knowledge about his department's evidence room as the personnel who run it. To help chiefs become this knowledgeable, software to automate evidence

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management is essential just as much as technology has become for all other aspects of a law enforcement agency. After all, evidence is a high liability area, even though it doesn't show up with a lot of frequency. Which is why evidence software should be user friendly and reliable, allowing officers, detectives, the chief and others to have easy, quick access to it as needed.

Move To New Evidence Facility Prompted Software Search

This is how Chief Ron Noble of the McMinnville, Oregon, Police Department views the importance of evidence. In fact, It is such a high priority that he has taken a class offered by the International Association of Property and Evidence (IAPE) and had his present evidence technician, Marci Peters, take the same class.

Chief Noble decided it was time to automate evidence management when his department had to move evidence from its old holding facility to a new one, requiring a complete inventory and tracking of where evidence was in the former facility and where it would end up residing in the new location. When looking for a software program, "We wanted a program that would minimize any increase in workload and ideally that would save time," Chief Noble said. "We don't have a lot of extra time for training since we're mostly operations based," the chief continued. "So, we needed an evidence management program that would be intuitive and that one officer could teach to another." McMinnville PD chose EvidenceOnQ from FileOnQ, Inc.

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Chief is "Hands-off," But Wants Reports

Chief Noble says that after sending his technician to the IAPE course, he is "hands-off" regarding daily management of evidence. He knows that the systems for managing evidence are in place and that he can have whatever information he needs within minutes. For example, he explains, "To create an audit, I want to know how many total items we have in our evidence facility. How long has it been there? This gives me an idea of how well we're purging," Chief Noble said.

With EvidenceOnQ in place, Chief Noble can get the reports he needs on virtually any evidence detail or group of evidence items. The reports help guide him to contain potential liability issues such as security of evidence, and purging of evidence no longer needed. In addition, "Sometimes, we will be asked to respond on evidence issues occurring at agencies outside of McMinnville and what we are doing to prepare ourselves for something similar," Chief Noble said.

For Marci Peters, McMinnville PD's evidence technician, the training provided by Shannon Turner, trainer for EvidenceOnQ, was invaluable. "Shannon came to our department for several days, helped me set up reports in the software, and customized my EvidenceOnQ home screen," Peters said. "And the fact that she's managed evidence for an agency herself made a huge difference."

Software Gives Quicker View, Higher Security of Evidence

Peters has seen numerous benefits in using EvidenceOnQ. "It's definitely a timesaver with electronic chain of custody, and purging is much easier," she said. "I can look at a report and see immediately what evidence items can be purged. We can also compare one year from another to see if we're on schedule for getting rid of as much evidence or more as it comes in," Peters explained. "We can see trends,

> ... we can easily pull up the report and see what items have passed their retention date and determine if they can be purged "

too, as to how many more items or drugs we're bringing in compared to a previous year, or just see if we're seizing more items of evidence than before."

EvidenceOnQ helps secure evidence items more quickly than the prior custom-built system that McMinnville PD was using. This is crucial, especially for sensitive evidence such as DNA. "It is important that we take advantage of this new technology so that we maintain chain of custody by getting items to the lab quickly," Chief Noble said.

Automation Gives Evidence Higher Priority, Cross-Training

> " With an inadequate evidence management system that is not fully comprehensive, the person running it is the only person who knows what is where and what's going on... This inherently puts the entire department at risk! "

Evidence management software is as important a tool as the technology provided to the officer on the street and that is at his fingertips. Look inside any officer's patrol unit and technology abounds to help him do his job more efficiently. Therefore, "We can't leave the evidence room off to the side,"

Chief Noble argues. "It has to have the same priority as other operations that deal with the emergencies moment by moment."

Likewise, **easy accessibility to evidence management software is vital for today's law enforcement agency.** "With a an inadequate evidence management system that is not fully electronic and comprehensive, the person running it is the only person who knows what is where and what's going on," Chief Noble said. "Cross-training is much easier with an electronic evidence management system."

See Video Interviews of McMinnville PD Online

About FileOnQ Inc. (Developers of EvidenceOnQ)

Formed in May 1996 as Integrated Software Solutions, we have specialized—from the beginning—in the development of products focused on lifecycle records management for the corporate, departmental, and workgroup user. For the past nine years, we have dedicated ourselves to powerful and customizable solutions for Law Enforcement to track and manage their property and evidence from the crime scene to the court room. Police and sheriff departments, district attorneys, and prosecutors value the ability to access, view, manage, and track evidence and associated documents, media instantly using a web browser. Allowing them to communicate and work together on cases and evidence like never before.

Agencies at the local, state, and federal level have successfully implemented our system to not only manage evidence but also officer equipment, assets, critical incident scenes, fleet vehicles, case management, and more. Agencies have discovered that what we offer is much more than a software system. It is a powerful platform with the tools needed to increase efficiencies throughout their entire jurisdiction.

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