



## **Case Study:** **Accurately Tracking Joint & Several Restitution**

**MiCOURT automates the  
restitution process to improve  
tracking and reporting accuracy.**

## Accurately Tracking Joint & Several Restitution

Joint and several restitution is a case management process used when all codefendants involved in a crime are charged to share in the responsibility to pay a total restitution amount in order to reimburse a victim(s). Judges order restitution as a total amount across multiple cases. As each codefendant pays toward the ordered amount, the total due is reduced and eventually paid in full. By ordering restitution this way, the court places the compensation of the victim ahead of any one defendant's ability to pay.

The issue with having a common total ordered amount that is assessed to each defendant across multiple cases, is that the current system gives an inaccurate, inflated total of outstanding restitution balances for the court.

This paper explains the need for the accurate tracking of joint and several restitution and how JIS has designed a solution to streamline this process and improve accuracy and efficiency.

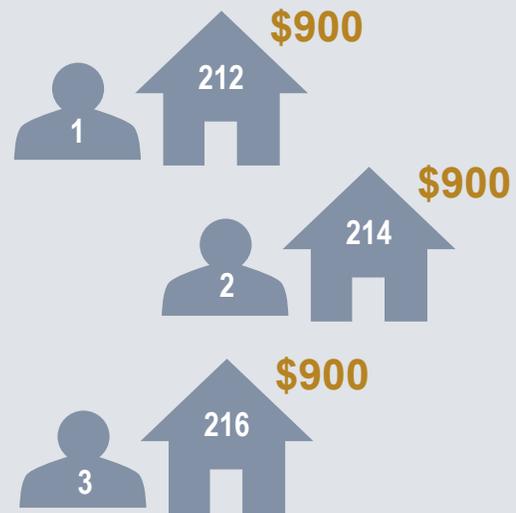
## Ordering Restitution

There are different ways that the court may order restitution. For example, a court can assess each case an exact amount to pay or the court can assess one ordered amount to be shared among multiple cases.

- When courts assign a case an exact amount, joint and several does not apply. This is a straightforward way to order restitution and reporting will be accurate.
- Joint and Several applies when courts order multiple cases to share one amount. The clerk must make sure with each case that the total assessment equals the total amount of restitution ordered for each defendant.

If three defendants working together break windows at three different houses, totaling \$2700, then in the old system, it would appear as if each defendant owed \$2700, which would inflate reporting by \$5400.

MiCOURT has a solution for this.



**\$2,700**



## Tracking Restitution Payments and Disbursements

- When courts order one amount to one case: As courts receive payments and disburse the funds, the case updates and there is no additional tracking required.
- When courts order one amount to multiple cases: As courts receive payments, clerks must update all cases that share the restitution. This also applies to disbursements to victims. As payments are made the clerk has the responsibility to manually update all the cases that share that portion of restitution. The same is true when disbursements are made to victims; the clerk is responsible to manually update all the cases that share that portion of restitution. In this scenario, there may be different victims to keep track of as well. Each and every time there is a payment, the clerk must manually update all cases, all defendants, and all victims. This is very time consuming and could lead to errors.

## Joint & Several Restitution: Problem Solved

MiCOURT gives courts the ability to implement “shared receivables” and automate the process of tracking Joint and Several Restitution.

MiCOURT assists courts with ordering, paying, disbursing, and accurately reporting restitution.

- MiCOURT links one total amount of restitution to multiple cases.
- MiCOURT automatically updates each case that is linked to the shared restitution as payments are made to the court by any one defendant.
- MiCOURT automatically updates each case that has shared restitution for disbursements made from the court to the victim(s).
- MiCOURT accurately reports outstanding restitution balances without having an inflated total.

MiCOURT can help courts save money! By automating the link between cases, MiCOURT allows the clerk to be more efficient, save time by eliminating manual tracking, and significantly reduce the chance of overpayments and overreporting of payables.

**For more information about MiCOURT features and benefits or the migration plan, contact us at [JISRollout@courts.mi.gov](mailto:JISRollout@courts.mi.gov).**

The Judicial Information Systems (JIS) Division of the State Court Administrative Offices (SCAO) provides technical and automated information system support for the Michigan Supreme Court, SCAO, and the trial courts throughout the state.



Michigan Supreme Court  
State Court Administrative Offices  
Judicial Information Systems

