e-Warrants Modification Project
Multiple Warrants Case Study

Issue:

A risk with potentially serious consequences exists in the current automated warrants data exchange system: an entire wanted person record in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and Pennsylvania's Law Enforcement System repositories (CLEAN) having multiple warrants associated with it can be inadvertently removed by processing a cancellation or clear transaction of a single warrant. The result is that there no longer is a record that the individual is still wanted for the charges on the other warrants.

Scenario:

Assume there is an active warrant in NCIC and CLEAN for John Doe initiated by ORI PA0010000 for a failure to appear charge. Assume that ORI PA0010000 files a Criminal Complaint with the court alleging a robbery charge against John Doe, and the court issues an arrest warrant.

NCIC enforces a business rule that only one wanted-person record can exist per defendant per ORI. Therefore, the robbery warrant for John Doe will be rejected by NCIC with the error code "on-file." When ORI PA0010000 receives this error message, the typical practice is to modify the wanted-person record to promote the more severe charge and then note the pre-existing charge in the "miscellaneous" field. The modified wanted-person record will carry the same NCIC Number (NIC) as the original FTA warrant, but NCIC and CLEAN will show the robbery charge.

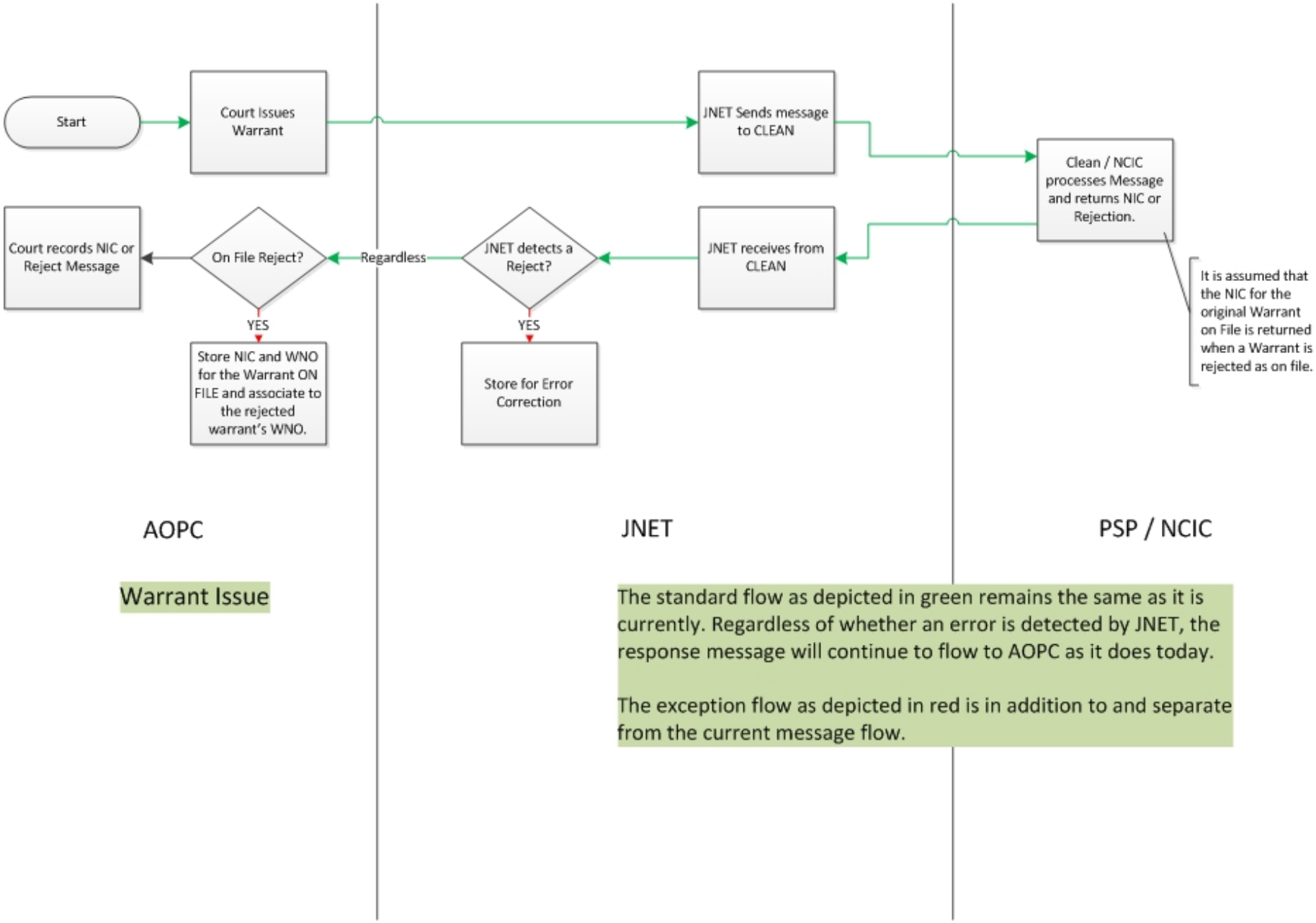
Now imagine that the court determines that the original FTA warrant should be cancelled or cleared. When the court's cancel/clear message is processed, the robbery warrant will also be deleted from NCIC and CLEAN.

System Enhancement:

Through the collaboration of JNET, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), and the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), the e-Warrants project team designed a solution for accurately maintaining "bundled" warrants. Essentially, when a warrant is rejected with an NCIC "on-file" message, the AOPC's warrant management system will associate the pre-existing warrant's NIC with the new warrant's Warrant Number (WNO). Creating this connection in the court's warrant management system will allow the court warrant management system to identify to JNET and PSP that a warrant cancel / clear is related to other existing warrants for the same subject. In essence this association represents a Multi-Warrant NIC.

The following diagrams illustrate the new additions to the Commonwealth's e-Warrant system, indicated with red arrows.

The first phase is Warrant Issue. Note that when the AOPC detects an "on-file" reject message, the court's warrant management system will store the NIC and WNO of the pre-existing warrant record, and then associate it with the new, rejected warrant's WNO, establishing a Multi-Warrant NIC.

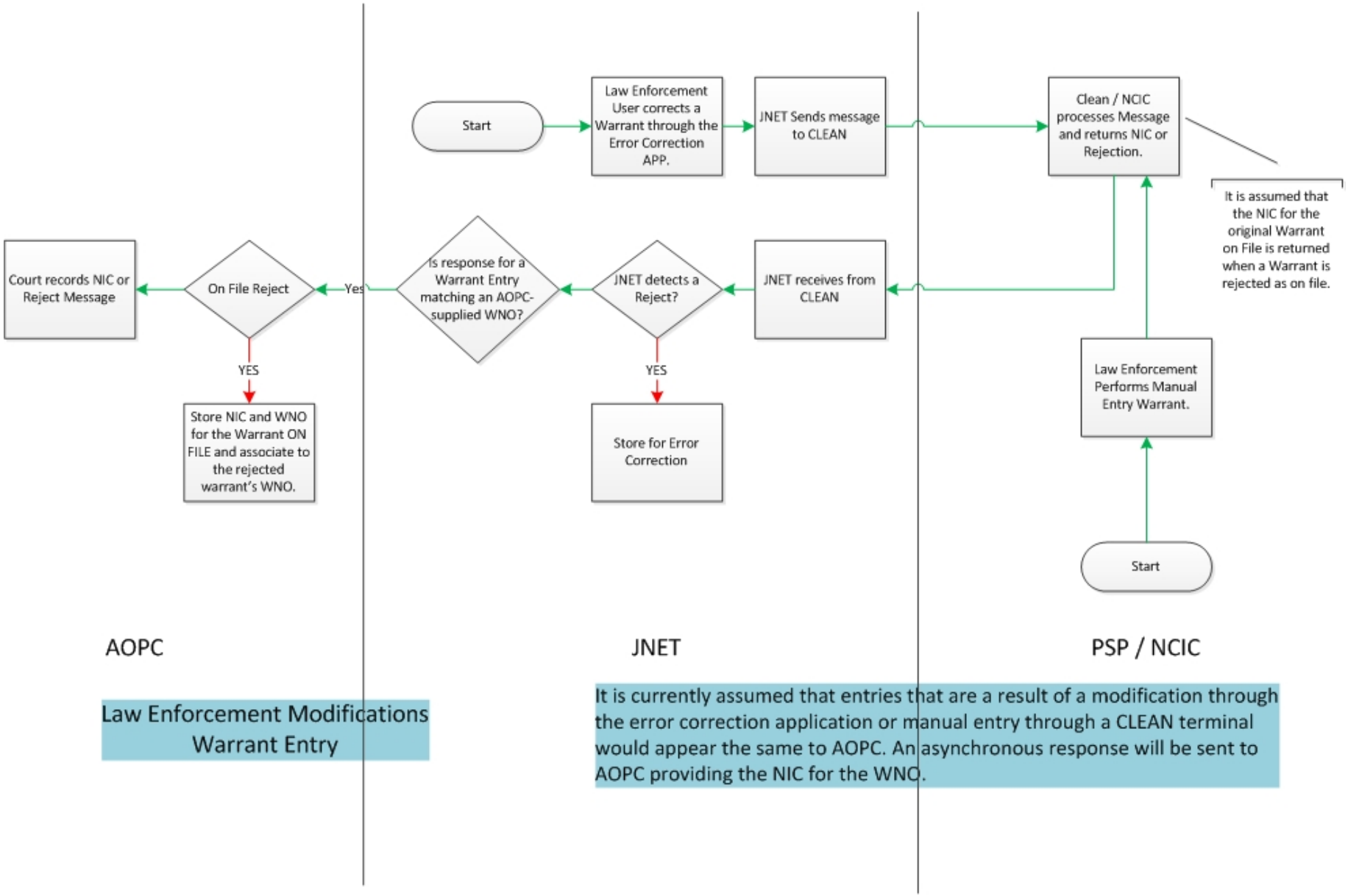


Warrant Issue

The standard flow as depicted in green remains the same as it is currently. Regardless of whether an error is detected by JNET, the response message will continue to flow to AOPC as it does today.

The exception flow as depicted in red is in addition to and separate from the current message flow.

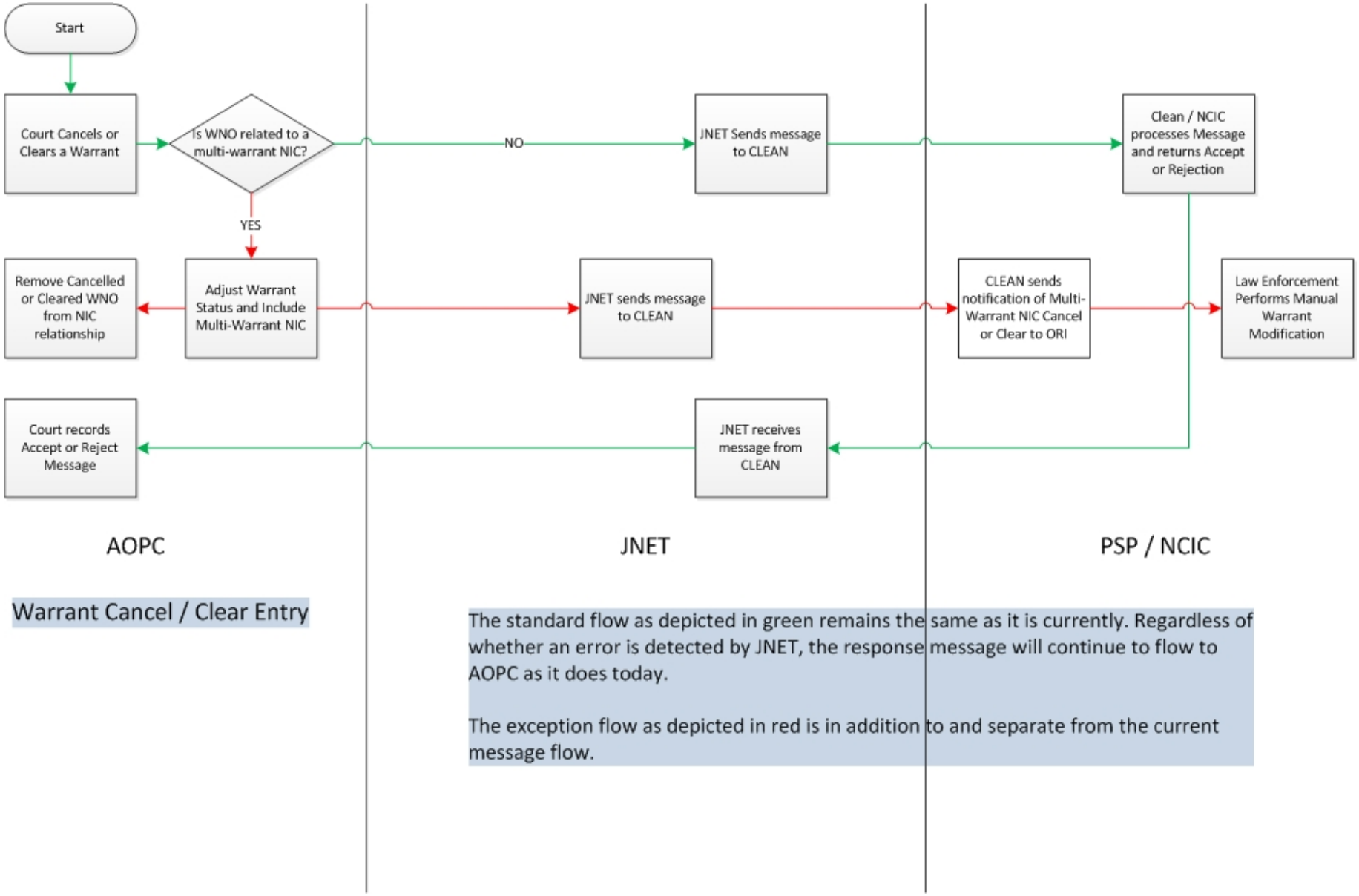
A different flow is followed when law enforcement modifies and resubmits a rejected warrant, or manually enters a new warrant. Note that when JNET receives a response message back from NCIC, it will detect whether the warrant WNO matches a previously submitted warrant from AOPC, meaning that the warrant entry originated from the court's CMS. If so, a message will be sent to the AOPC, where the court's warrant management system will establish a Multi-Warrant NIC.



Law Enforcement Modifications Warrant Entry

It is currently assumed that entries that are a result of a modification through the error correction application or manual entry through a CLEAN terminal would appear the same to AOPC. An asynchronous response will be sent to AOPC providing the NIC for the WNO.

The final, critical phase is the court's cancel or clear message. The court's warrant management system will determine if a warrant being cancelled or cleared belongs to a Multi-Warrant NIC. If so, the new cancel/clear message flowing from the AOPC to JNET will include an alert for law enforcement, so that they will carefully excise the correct warrant from the NIC, leaving active in the CLEAN and NCIC repositories the remaining warrants in the Multi-Warrant NIC relationship.



Warrant Cancel / Clear Entry

The standard flow as depicted in green remains the same as it is currently. Regardless of whether an error is detected by JNET, the response message will continue to flow to AOPC as it does today.

The exception flow as depicted in red is in addition to and separate from the current message flow.

Contact Information:

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