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3. DATA TRANSMISSION METHOD

This section provides the information needed for IV-D agencies to transmit to and receive data from the FCR.

3.1 CONNECT:Direct

States agencies transmit Person, Case and Locate data using SSA’s network and the CONNECT:Direct protocol. CONNECT:Direct is a data transfer software product which allows data centers within and across networks to send and receive large amounts of data using a mainframe-to-mainframe data exchange. The Person, Case and Locate Records that are transmitted to the FCR via CONNECT:Direct must be in the appropriate record format. Refer to Appendix G, “FCR Input Transaction Layouts”, Appendix H, “FCR Output Transaction Layouts”, and Appendix E, “Data Dictionary”, for the record layouts and field descriptions.

The CONNECT:Direct software connects each State to SSA’s National Computer Center (NCC), which houses the FCR. Each State has a copy of the CONNECT:Direct product to submit data using the SSA network. Each State has one data center within the network.

ACF has a formal agreement with the SSA, which allows States to send and receive data through SSA’s existing network.

The basic element of CONNECT:Direct is a file transfer process. To initiate the transfer of data via CONNECT:Direct, a State must initiate predefined processes that consist of single ‘COPY’ Statements or combinations of multiple Statements separated by conditional logic. Processes can trigger transfers at a requested time under predetermined criteria. Six different activities may be specified in a process:

1. Move files among systems,
2. Submit jobs,
3. Execute programs,
4. Submit other processes,
5. Build and resolve symbolic values, and
6. Alter the sequence of process execution through conditional logic.

CONNECT:Direct has a checkpoint/restart feature. It eliminates the need to retransmit an entire file in the event of a transmission failure. If a transfer error occurs, the CONNECT:Direct software automatically restarts transmission at the most recent checkpoint. CONNECT:Direct also automatically generates on-line statistics for security, auditing and accounting purposes. This allows States to determine the usage of network resources and to determine how to improve network efficiency.

States must take the following steps to begin using the CONNECT:Direct network to transmit FCR data:
1. Identify the data center that is connected to the SSA CONNECT:Direct network.
2. Identify the person responsible for creating the CONNECT:Direct process to transmit data.
3. Distribute the sample Job Control Language (JCL) to the CONNECT:Direct contact. The sample JCL provides instructions to the programmer and supplies examples of how to create the necessary CONNECT:Direct process to submit FCR data.
4. Provide the OCSE CONNECT:Direct technicians with the Stateside filenames (DSNs) for the State to OCSE transmission and the return OCSE to State transmission.
5. Insure the State CONNECT:Direct security will allow the reading and writing of these files by SSA CONNECT:Direct on the State system.
6. Create the CONNECT:Direct processes necessary to submit data to the FCR.
7. Contact the technical liaison to schedule a test to determine the success of submitting and receiving data from the FCR. A list of the technical liaisons is available through the FPLS Information Line or the OCSE’s World Wide Website. Refer to Chart 3-1, “CONNECT:Direct Technical Support,” for the telephone number of the Information Line and the Web address.

3.1.1 SAMPLE JCL FOR CONNECT:Direct

Figure 3-1 displays sample JCL that States may use for building the job that will transmit FCR data files to the SSA data center. Substitute the actual values for the CONNECT:Direct data set names. Other information may require modification to conform to each data center environment.
Figure 3-1: Sample JCL for CONNECT:Direct

```
SAMPLE JCL

//JOBSEND JOB                                           *
(OCSE,XYX),'FCRXMIT',CLASS=E,MSGCLASS=T,NOTIFY=XYX

//DMBATCH EXEC PGM=DMBATCH,REGION=1M,PARM=(YYSLYNN)
//STEPLIB DD DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.LOADLIB
//DMNETMPA DD DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.NETMAP
//DMTPUBLIB DD DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.PROCESS.LIB
//DMMGSFIL DD DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.MSG
//DMPRINT DD SYSOUT=*                                  
//SYSPRINT DD SYSOUT=*                                 
//NDMCMDS DD SYSOUT=*                                  
//SYSUDUMP DD SYSOUT=*                                 
//SYSPRINT DD SYSOUT=*                                 
SIGNON
SUBMIT PROC=SENDFCR NOTIFY=XYX                       
SIGNOFF
/*

Place the following process, SENDFCR, into the Partitioned Data Set (PDS) library referenced by the above DMPUBLIB DD Statement. Substitute the agency or State name where the Snn appears. Substitute the CONNECT:Direct node Name for PNODE=.

SENDFCR PROCESS PNODE=NDM.SGA.Snn SNODE=NDM.SSA.NCC *

STEP1 SUBMIT DSN=NDMNCC.Snn.PROCESS.LIB(FCRIN) -
          SUBNODE=SNODE
```

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3.1.2 CONNECT:DIRECT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

States can receive technical support regarding the CONNECT:Direct process and protocols. These resources include a telephone number that an agency can call to receive assistance for technical questions or problems, and the Website address. Chart 3-1 shows the resources and how to contact the resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>How to Contact Resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FPLS Information Line</td>
<td>202.401.9267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abe Klugman, CONNECT:D Direct Technician</td>
<td>410.965.5635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominic Perry, CONNECT:D Direct Technician</td>
<td>410.966.4737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Abe.Klugman@acf.hhs.gov">Abe.Klugman@acf.hhs.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Dominic.Perry@acf.hhs.gov">Dominic.Perry@acf.hhs.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.3 TRANSMISSION SITE

Each State must have only one CONNECT:Direct transmission site. All transactions for a State must come from the same site. States that have chosen to house their SCR for Non IV-D orders outside their Statewide child support system must ensure that their IV-D and Non IV-D transmissions come from one CONNECT:Direct site, although States may choose to send IV-D cases and Non IV-D orders in separate transmissions or separate batches within a transmission.

3.2 SCR-to-FCR Transmission

Beginning October 1, 1998, each State must submit IV-D cases and Non-IV-D orders, including associated person information, to the FCR via CONNECT:Direct using the required formats. Appendix I, “Transaction Timeframes”, defines the critical dates for capturing the required information. Part 4, “FCR Transactions”, and Appendix G, “FCR Input Transaction Layouts”, present explanations of the formats for the submission of data to the FCR.

A State has the option of selecting its own schedule for transmission of data to the FCR. States may transmit data daily using CONNECT:Direct. The FCR is a batch system that executes on a daily basis, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. For a list of official Federal holidays, refer to Internet website: [http://www.opm.gov/fedhol/index.asp](http://www.opm.gov/fedhol/index.asp). At the beginning of each cycle, the FCR collects the files that have been received via CONNECT:Direct since the last cycle.

In developing a schedule for transmission of data to the FCR, a State must consider many factors, such as the SCR batch window, the frequency of changes, etc. One less obvious, but very important, consideration is the need to ensure that the FCR reflects current information. The FCR Proactive Matching processes, described in Section 4.2.4, “FCR Proactive Match Processing”, use the information that is submitted on a daily basis. It returns information to the submitting, and other, States about persons in interstate cases and newly received NDNH
data for persons in IV-D cases on the FCR. To obtain the maximum benefit from this process, and to avoid unnecessary handling of out-of-date information, States should submit new and changed case or person information to the FCR in as timely a manner as possible. OCSE recommends that the State submit this information at least weekly. Daily submissions are encouraged to maintain an even transaction flow to the FCR. However, OCSE realizes that this may not be feasible for all SCRs.

3.3 FCR-to-SCR Transmission

The FCR sends four different types of transactions to the SCR. FCR input Proactive Match Responses are sent as a result of input transactions that have been received from the SCR. Locate Request Responses and FCR Query Responses are sent in response to a request from the State. Proactive Matching Transactions are automatically sent to the State. Chart 3-2 summarizes the records that are associated with the four transaction types and the associated time frames for FCR transmission of the transactions. Part 4, “FCR Transactions,” and Appendix H, “FCR Output Transaction Layouts”, present explanations of the formats of the data that is sent to the SCR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHART 3-2: FCR-TO-SCR TRANSMISSION DATA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transaction Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input Acknowledge-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final acknowledgement, acceptance or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locate Request Responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS-1099 Locate Response Record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCR NDNH Locate/ Proactive Match Record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCR Query/Proactive Match Response Record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCR Query/Proactive Match Response Record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transaction Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Match Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSFI Match Results</td>
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</tbody>
</table>