Instructions for Extracting
SAS or SPSS Data Files
from the Provided Files

The following is an explanation of how to extract a fiscal year data file from the United States Sentencing Commission's website.

The data is stored in ASCII dat files for which we provide both SAS and SPSS extract programs so that users of either software package will be able to access the data.

In addition to the data files, we also provide a codebook that contains information on all of the variables located on each of the fiscal year data files. This file is located alongside these extraction instruction on the Commission's website.

Both the data and programs to extract the SAS and SPSS data files are located in WinZip files, which has an **.zip** file extension, available through the links for each Fiscal Year. To extract either the SAS or SPSS data please read the following instructions.

To extract the SAS data file do the following:

1.   Download the Winzip file for the fiscal year you are interested in from the website to the desired location on your computer.

2.   Extract/Un-compress the three files contained in the Zip file using WinZip or some other file compression program.

3.   Once the file has been un-compressed you should have three new files in the folder you specified, a **.sas** program file, a **.sps** program file (which you will not need for this process) and a much larger **.dat** file containing the raw fiscal year data.

4.   Open the **.sas** program file in your SAS software package and follow the instructions at the beginning of the program.

    a.   Prior to running the program you will need to update the folder path in the FILNAME statement, replacing the '**.**' with the folder path location (e.g. 'C:\temp') of the corresponding **.dat** file on your computer, and the folder path in the LIBNAME statement, replacing the '**.**' with the folder path location (e.g. 'C:\temp') where you want the created SAS data file to be saved.

5.   Once you have run the SAS program file you should have a SAS dataset in the location you specified.

6.   Follow the above procedure to create each of the fiscal year data files.

To extract the SPSS data file do the following:

7.   Download the Winzip file for the fiscal year you are interested in from the website to the desired location on your computer.

8.   Extract/Un-compress the three files contained in the Zip file using WinZip or some other

file compression program.

9. Once the file has been un-compressed you should have three new files in the folder you specified, a **.sps** program file, a **.sas** program file (which you will not need for this process) and a much larger **.dat** file containing the raw fiscal year data.

10. Open the **.sps** program file in your SPSS software package and follow the instructions at the beginning of the program.

   a. Prior to running the program you will need to update the folder path in the FILE HANDLE DATA / NAME statement, replacing the '**.**' with the folder path location (e.g. 'C:\temp') of the corresponding **.dat** file on your computer, and the folder path in the SAVE OUTFILE statement at the end of the program, replacing the '**.**' with the folder path location (e.g. 'C:\temp') where you want the created SPSS data file to be saved.

11. Once you have run the SPSS program file you should have a SPSS dataset in the location you specified.

12. Follow the above procedure to create each of the fiscal year data files.

The intention was to provide the Commission's data in a way that would be easily transferable to the user's computer system.   If you have any problems downloading, extracting or creating the datasets please contact the Commission at AskORD@ussc.gov.