

WATCH FAQ

Why is there no record in the database when I know there was an arrest or conviction?

Information obtained through this site may be incomplete or inaccurate for several reasons:

Searches based on names and dates of birth are not always accurate. When arrested, some people use alias names and numeric identifiers, such as names, dates of birth, driver license numbers and Social Security numbers. Therefore, WASIS criminal history files may contain incorrect names and numeric identifiers.

The only way to positively identify someone to a criminal record is through fingerprint verification. Information on obtaining fingerprint verification can be obtained by contacting the Washington State Patrol, Identification and Criminal History Section.

Additional information may be available from court clerks and criminal justice agencies in the counties where cases were adjudicated. This listing may not reflect the entire conviction history of a particular individual. Local law enforcement agencies, courts, and juvenile facilities may have additional information regarding an individual not filed with the state.

All conviction criminal history information is provided to WASIS by courts and criminal justice agencies. There are instances when the Section has not received CHRI or documents have been received but not yet entered into the database.

Can I share the information I receive with anyone else?

The criminal history record information provided through this web site is public information and may be used by anyone for any purpose.

However, it is your responsibility to make sure the records you access through this site pertains to the person whom you are seeking information.

Extreme care should be exercised in using any information obtained from this Web site. Neither the WSP nor the State of Washington shall be responsible for any errors or omissions produced by secondary dissemination of this data.

Chapter 10.97.050(7), Revised Code of Washington (RCW), requires a record of the requestor, subject, date and details of records disseminated and are retained for a period of not less than one year.

What is the Washington State Criminal Records Privacy Act (Also known as Public Information) RCW 10.97.050?

Revised Code of Washington 10.97.050 states that conviction records may be disseminated without restriction. Therefore, the WSP Identification and Criminal History Section may disclose, upon request, conviction criminal history record information. Criminal history consists of conviction records plus arrest information less than one year old with dispositions pending from the court. Responses are limited to Washington State records only.

Who may do a background check under the Privacy Act?

Anyone; the Identification Section will respond to all requests for conviction criminal history record information.

What is the Child and Adult Abuse Information Act RCW 43.43.830-43.43.845?

The legislature finds that businesses and organizations providing services to children, developmentally disabled persons, and vulnerable adults need adequate information to determine which employees or licensees to hire or engage. Therefore, the WSP Identification and Criminal History Section may disclose, upon request, convictions of all crimes and pending arrests of crimes against persons as defined in RCW 9.94A.411. Pending arrests are those less than one year old without disposition. Responses are limited to Washington State records only.

Who may do a background check under the Child and Adult Abuse Information Act?

Businesses, organizations and others in the state of Washington, who educate, train, treat, supervise house or provide recreation to children under sixteen years of age, developmentally disabled persons or vulnerable adults may do a background check on prospective employees, volunteers, or adoptive parents. The background check is for initial employment or engagement decisions only. The requesting agency must notify the applicant of the WSP Identification and Criminal History Section's response. Background checks on existing employees should be done through the Criminal Records Privacy Act, RCW 10.97.

For additional information check: <https://fortress.wa.gov/wsp/watch/>