Washington State conviction criminal history record information (CHRI) is available on the Internet using WATCH.

The release of conviction CHRI is permitted under the Washington State Criminal Records Privacy Act, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 10.97.050 and under the Child and Adult Abuse Information Act, RCW 43.43.830-43.43.845. All criminal history background check responses include sex and kidnapping offender registration information.

Washington State Criminal Records Privacy Act RCW 10.97.050
Allows dissemination of all convictions and any arrests less than one year old pending disposition. Under Washington State law, conviction CHRI is available without restriction to anyone.

Child and Adult Abuse Information Act RCW 43.43.830-43.43.845
Provides an applicant's record of convictions and any pending crimes less than one year old for which the applicant is currently being processed by the criminal justice system. An arrest is not a conviction or a finding of guilt. The conviction record data does not include information on civil adjudications, administrative findings, or disciplinary board final decisions – all such information must be obtained from the courts and licensing agencies. Responses are limited to Washington State records only. Background checks can be requested on prospective employees, volunteers, or adoptive parents who will or may have unsupervised access to children under sixteen years of age, developmentally disabled persons, or vulnerable adults. Background checks may also be requested by a business or organization that qualifies for exemption under section 501 (c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501 (c)(3) and that provides emergency shelter or transitional housing for children, persons with developmental disabilities, or vulnerable adults. The background check is for initial employment or engagement decisions only. The requesting agency must notify the applicant of the Section's response. Background checks on existing employees should be done through the *Criminal Records Privacy Act, RCW 10.97*.

What is the cost of conducting a WATCH search?
WATCH allows search reports to be purchased with a credit card or by using an account established with the Washington State Patrol (WSP). A $12 fee is charged for each name search, regardless of the result. Pursuant to RCW 43.43.830, non-profit organizations licensed in Washington State are exempt from payment requirements when they are performing searches of convictions for crimes against children or vulnerable adults on prospective employees or volunteers.

What are the WATCH results?
The search will result in one of the following:

- A NO RECORD or NO EXACT MATCH FOUND response, which means there is no conviction record in the WSP database that matches the search criteria used.
- A Candidate listing, which means there is a candidate list of records that matches or closely matches the search criteria used and the ability to immediately retrieve a transcript of record.
- A possible DUPLICATE MATCH indicating there may be two or more exact name and date of birth matches to the search criteria used. Please contact the Section at (360) 534-2000 (option 2) for further instructions.

Washington State statute (RCW 10.97.050) requires the WSP, Identification and Criminal History Section (Section), retain information about the dissemination, including subject of inquiry, the name of the person requesting the CHRI, and date of the search.

How can I conduct a search through WATCH?
WATCH can be accessed through any personal computer with access to the Internet. An account number may be established to receive a monthly billing invoice, or you may establish an on-line credit card account and use Discover, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard.

How do I establish an account?
An account application can be printed by accessing WATCH "Forms" on the Web site, contacting the Section at (360) 534-2000, or by sending an e-mail to *watch.hlp@wsp.wa.gov*. A completed application submitted to the Section will be processed within 7-14 days.

What are the limitations when conducting a search using WATCH?
WATCH search results are provided based on a name and date of birth match or close match to a name in the criminal history database. Nicknames, former names, maiden names, and dates of birth will affect responses received. Searches based on name and dates of birth are not always accurate.

Positive verification or non-verification of criminal history can be effected only upon receipt of fingerprints. Contact the Section for further information on fingerprinting fees and services.

The Section database may not contain **all arrests and dispositions** within the state of Washington. There may be instances when arrest offenses or court dispositions are not sent to the Section or instances when information may be pending data entry into the CHRI database. Additional information pertaining to an individual may be available at local criminal justice agencies.

Does WATCH provide nationwide information?
No. WATCH only provides Washington State conviction criminal history.

For further information, please contact the Section at (360) 534-2000.

Washington State Patrol
Identification and Criminal History Section
PO Box 42633
3000 Pacific Ave., Suite 202
Olympia, WA 98504-2633
(360) 534-2000
watch.hlp@wsp.wa.gov

3000-240-571 (R 7/15)

Washington State Patrol
Criminal Records Division
Identification and Criminal History Section
PO Box 42633
Olympia WA 98504-2633

WASHINGTON STATE PATROL WSP WATCH

WASHINGTON ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY

- *http://watch.wsp.wa.gov*
- *www.wsp.wa.gov*
- *http://www.access.wa.gov*