

are not always accurate. Nicknames, former names, and dates of birth will affect responses received. There can be no positive verification or non-verification of criminal history unless fingerprints are submitted. Contact the Identification and Criminal History Section for further information on fingerprinting fees and services.

The Identification and Criminal History Section receives information from criminal justice agencies throughout the state. Reporting agencies may not provide all arrest offenses or court dispositions or information may be pending data entry into the database at the state level. Additional information pertaining to an individual may be available at the local levels.

**Does WATCH provide nationwide information?**

No. WATCH only provides Washington State conviction CHRI and any arrest information pending disposition less than one year old. Washington conviction CHRI may be provided to individuals and organizations outside Washington State. The law on dissemination of CHRI can be found under RCW 10.97.050.



# WATCH

## Washington Access To Criminal History



- ◆ <http://watch.wsp.wa.gov>
- ◆ <http://www.wa.gov/wsp/wsp/home.htm>
- ◆ <http://www.access.wa.gov>

### WASHINGTON STATE PATROL IDENTIFICATION AND CRIMINAL HISTORY SECTION

PO BOX 42633  
OLYMPIA WA 98504-2633  
(360) 705-5100

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, 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 kidnapper registration information.

RCW 10.97.050 allows dissemination of all convictions and any arrests pending disposition less than one year old. RCW 43.43.830-43.43.845, provides limited conviction CHRI which includes crimes against children or other persons; crimes relating to financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult; crimes relating to drugs as defined in RCW 43.43.830; and certain civil adjudications. Non-conviction CHRI is not available to the public.

WATCH allows you to request, view, and print conviction CHRI. However, to inquire about a person and to obtain his or her record, you must enter the correct date of birth and exact spelling of the person's name. Otherwise, the criminal history record you want will may not be found.

### **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. A \$10 fee is charged for each name searched, regardless of the outcome. Non-profit organizations registered in Washington are exempt from payment requirements when they are performing searches of convictions for crimes against children or vulnerable adults on prospective employees or volunteers under RCW 43.43.830.

### **What are the search results?**

The search will result in one of the following:

- ◆ A transcript of record (RAP sheet) when your search criteria matches exactly one entry in the database.
- ◆ An indication more than one matching record was found (no distinct match) and instructions to contact the Section to arrange for further processing of the search.
- ◆ No match at all, which means there is no conviction CHRI in the database that exactly matches the search parameters entered.

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

### **Who can use WATCH?**

Anyone. Under Washington State law, conviction CHRI is available without restriction.

### **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 or you may conduct a search using a credit card on-line (Discover, American Express, Visa or Mastercard).

### **How do I get an account established?**

You may contact the Section at (360) 705-5100 or send e-mail to [criminal\\_history@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:criminal_history@wsp.wa.gov) to request an application.

### **What are the limitations when conducting a search using WATCH?**

WATCH search results are provided based on an exact name spelling and date of birth. Searches based on name and date of birth