



North Central Washington Law Enforcement Leadership Group

Kevin Morris, Douglas County Sheriff
Chief Steve Crown, Wenatchee Police Department
Brian Burnett, Chelan County Sheriff
Chief Rick Johnson, East Wenatchee Police Department

During the 2020-21 Washington Legislative session, the legislature passed multiple police reform bills following several tragic incidents involving interactions between law enforcement and the public in cities around the nation. In May, Governor Inslee signed these reform bills into law. The majority of these new laws took effect on July 25, 2021 and will profoundly impact policing across Washington State. These laws create substantial limitations that are more restrictive than federal law with regard to police use of force. This will drive changes to police response to and handling of calls for service and investigations. Additionally, many of these new laws are ambiguous and require detailed legal interpretation. Washington law enforcement agencies across the state have asked for clarification from the Legislature, and the Attorney General's Office. To date, there has been no clarifying response received. Absent responses to these official requests, your local law enforcement leaders believe it is important to inform our communities about how these laws will influence the way we deliver public safety services moving forward.

These new laws touch on many historically-effective methods of policing in our state. These laws impact search and seizure, use of force, vehicle pursuits, drug enforcement, mental health detentions, criminal investigations, tactics, and available tools for de-escalation. Some of these changes significantly limit law enforcement response to calls without criminal activity where we have historically had a role. We encourage you to learn about these new laws and contact us with your questions. The main reformative legislation includes House Bills 1054, 1140, 1223, and 1310, along with Senate Bills 5051, 5066, and 5476.

Sheriff Brian Burnett, Sheriff Kevin Morris, Chief Steve Crown, and Chief Rick Johnson have collectively discussed how the legislation will effect law enforcement responses in their jurisdictions. Law enforcement will assess each call for service to determine the appropriate legal response and other potential resources that may be utilized to provide services. In general, if no crime has been committed and no imminent threat of harm to others exists, Officers and Deputies may not respond or may leave the scene. Some examples of calls for service that may be effected include:

- *Welfare Checks* – requests to check on a person in public, a private place, or who has not been heard from for an unusual period
- *Mental Health* – calls for service of any type where there is information or potential that the involved subject suffers from a mental health condition
- *Civil Calls* – non-criminal calls for service

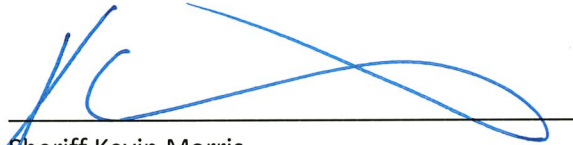
Investigations may take longer and potential suspects may be allowed to leave the scene of an incident.

Prior to the passage of these laws, a reasonable amount of force could have been used to detain possible suspects to allow time for the initial investigation. In incidents where use of force may be needed to detain the subject, probable cause now must be established before force can be used. Furthermore, this may make the identification of suspects difficult as they could not be detained and identified at the scene of an incident if the suspect is uncooperative.

Local law enforcement agencies remain committed to the safety of our communities. We will make every effort to maintain public safety and maintain our high standards of service under these new laws.



Sheriff Brian Burnett
Chelan County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Kevin Morris
Douglas County Sheriff's Office



Chief Rick Johnson
East Wenatchee Police Department



Chief Steve Crown
Wenatchee Police Department

Law Enforcement Legislative Changes

HOW WILL THESE CHANGES AFFECT YOU?

House Bills

1054

1140

1223

1310

Senate Bills

5051

5066

5476

Bill Information

<https://apps/leg.wa.gov/billinfo>



Join Sheriff Brian Burnett and the Chelan County Sheriff's Office for a review of the latest Legislative changes. Sheriff Burnett will cover:

- What are the new laws?
- What do they mean?
- How will these changes affect you?
- Q&A

WENATCHEE

August 2 at 6:00PM

Grace City Church— Chapel
277 Melody Ln, Wenatchee, WA

Entiat

August 4 at 6:00PM

Chelan County Fire District #8
2200 Entiat Way, Entiat, WA

Leavenworth

August 12 at 6:00PM

Chelan County Fire District #3
228 Chumstick Hwy, Leavenworth, WA

CASHMERE

August 3 at 6:00PM

Riverside Event Center
201 Riverside Dr, Cashmere, WA

Chelan

August 11 at 6:00PM

Chelan County Fire District #7
232 E Wapato Ave, Chelan, WA

Plain

August 13 at 6:00PM

Lake Wenatchee Rec Club
14400 Chiwawa Loop Rd, Leavenworth, WA