

Reporting of Criminal Charges Against an Employee

Policy Statement

Senate Bill 5051, passed during the 2021 legislative session, added new language to RCW 43.101.135 that requires law enforcement agencies to have a policy requiring officers to report any pending criminal charges and any conviction, plea, or other case disposition immediately to their agency. Failing to do so may result in disciplinary action or a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 by the Criminal Justice Training Commission.

Persons Affected

All employees, volunteers, and Specially Commissioned Peace Officers.

Definitions

Conviction - Means an accepted plea of guilty, nolo contendere, or deferred sentence; or a verdict of guilty or a finding of guilt has been filed. This includes all instances in which a plea of guilty or nolo contendere is the basis for conviction, and all proceedings in which there is a case disposition agreement, and any equivalent disposition by a court in a jurisdiction other than the State of Washington.

Reporting

Any employee, volunteer, or specially commissioned peace officer shall notify their respective Bureau Chief via the chain of command of any pending criminal charges, convictions, pleas, or other case disposition immediately.