



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

3060 Willamette Drive NE
Lacey, WA 98516
360-486-2380 (Phone)
360-486-2381 (Fax)
www.waspc.org

FOR RELEASE
July 6, 2024

Statement attribution:
Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director

WASPC STATEMENT ON STATE SUSPENSION OF INTAKES INTO STATE JUVENILE REHAB FACILITIES

(Lacey, WA) ---

Law enforcement agencies around the state have been notified by the Washington State Dept of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) that due to capacity issues they will indefinitely suspend acceptance and placement of sentenced juvenile offenders, regardless of the violence or severity of their crime.

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is cooperating with a DCYF request to inform law enforcement agencies across Washington of the intake suspension. At the same time, WASPC calls on the State to promptly resolve this issue through any necessary executive or legislative action. It is wholly unacceptable to simply stop accepting juveniles who have been sentenced, through due process, for often very violent crimes. Victims of crime need to know that offenders will remain in custody.

This situation is largely of the State's own making. The state's overcrowding problem in Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers has been known for some time, and not taking responsibility for the housing of offenders places the public at further risk. One common sense emergency option that should be considered is the transfer of non-juvenile inmates (18-25-year-olds) at Green Hill School to the custody of the Department of Corrections for incarceration in adult facilities.

###