



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Greetings from Your Executive Director:

Hope you all had a great (and safe) holiday weekend- here are a few updates for you-

Our first update is about Sexual Assault Kits. There is a requirement that law enforcement agencies submit all SAK3s (sexual assault kits that were in the possession of the law enforcement agency prior to July 24, 2015) to the WSP crime lab for analysis by October 1, 2019 UNLESS:

- a forensic analysis has already been performed on the kit;
- there is documentation that the victim does not want the kit submitted for testing; or
- the kit is non-investigatory and being held pursuant to an agreement with a hospital or other medical provider.

This requirement has not yet been incorporated into the RCW by the Code Reviser (it will be added as a new section in RCW 70.125), but can be cited as [Chapter 93, Laws of 2019](#), Section 7.

Also, note that the same bill prohibited hospitals from destroying any sexual assault kit associated with an alleged offense that hasn't been reported to law enforcement. Some hospitals may be reaching out to their local law enforcement agency to try to have the agency store that material (particularly blood and urine samples that require refrigeration, and any wet items that require freezing). You need to know that the duty to store this material is on the hospital, not the law enforcement agency, though an agency can choose to store it on behalf of the hospital-but that is your call, not theirs. Questions, let us know and we will try to find out for you.

This week, we submitted a column on the need for the community to be an integral part of improving community trust, and for a balanced and mutually respectful perspective on the issue of deadly force- the column was published this week in *Crosscut* and here is a [link](#).

As we continue to work on rulemaking by the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) for independent investigations of deadly force incidents, the law enforcement stakeholders submitted this [letter](#) for review by the CJTC. I am also attaching the draft [guidelines](#) and draft [rules](#) (and note, these are draft) rules as forwarded by CJTC. These will be discussed and possibly amended, but I do want to provide you with the most current drafts. Our next meeting is next week- please provide any feedback to me, and thanks.

I am also attaching the [grant announcement](#) for the Mental Health Field Response grants. Special thanks go out to our member Chiefs and Sheriffs who served on the review panel and made some very difficult decisions. Because much of the available money was "earmarked" by the legislature this biennium for areas named in the Trueblood settlement, it provided for far

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less money for those outside those named areas. Remember too that we will be sending out grant solicitations for the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) grants which will become available later in the fall, and will also be administered by WASPC. These will focus on behavioral health and diverting people into treatment. We will keep you apprised of the process as that moves forward.

Have a great weekend-

Work Hard- Have Fun- Stay Safe

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