



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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FOR RELEASE
February 26, 2025

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WASPC ON IMMIGRATION STATEMENTS

(Lacey, WA) --- The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) reiterates our statement of [December 18, 2024](#) on local law enforcement involvement in immigration issues. Rhetoric does not change the fact that the focus of local law enforcement is on criminal violations that affect local community safety and quality of life. We have every confidence that our state's Sheriffs and Chiefs will neither violate state laws nor interfere with U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or federal laws and duties.

Deportation, immigration, and federal law enforcement duties are under the jurisdiction of the federal courts and federal law enforcement agencies. Washington State law does not permit the housing of individuals in local jails solely for federal administrative matters such as immigration status, nor does it permit Washington law enforcement agencies to enforce civil immigration matters. Sheriffs and Chiefs across our state have been clear and consistent that they will follow both state and federal law. The federal government has no direct authority over local law enforcement.

Washington Sheriffs and Police Chiefs want all Washington residents to know that no one in our state should fear calling 911 for help due to their immigration status. The role of our officers, deputies, and troopers is to serve and protect everyone. We will always seek to provide that protection fairly, and without regard to immigration status.

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