

Washington Law and Justice Program

Vision Statement

A collaborative licensing system where the WA Department of Licensing, through the Law & Justice Program, empowers courts, law enforcement, and criminal justice partners with the knowledge and resources to ensure public safety, uphold the rights of drivers, and maintain the integrity of legal proceedings and licensing regulations.

Mission Statement

To support courts, law enforcement, criminal justice partners, and the Department with education, accurate records management, and strategic collaboration, ensuring the seamless application of licensing regulations, upholding drivers' rights, and protecting the integrity of the legal process.

Law and Justice Program

Our team of specialists supports courts and law enforcement agencies throughout the state and serves as the liaison for all criminal justice areas. One area of focus for the program is Commercial Driver Licenses (CDLs) due to their unique regulations and the potential for "masking" violations.

Key Activities related to CDL:

Training and Education: We train judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys, law enforcement, and other criminal justice personnel (probation officers, court clerks, court managers, etc.) on CDL regulations, policies, and procedures. Within law enforcement we assist and educate 911 Communication Officers and all levels of Police Departments, Sheriff Offices, Washington State Patrol, and federal agencies as requested. This training happens both virtually and in person.

Records Assistance: We answer daily questions about driver, vehicle, business, and professional records, focusing on complex CDL cases. We also work to fix large-scale records errors and provide immediate support to CVEOs.

Collaboration: We represent the agency at meetings and conferences related to criminal justice and traffic safety. We partner with various agencies to develop goals, prepare for regulatory changes, and improve processes for CDL holders.

Litigation Support: We closely partner with the Attorney General's Office on a variety of legal cases. This includes preparing documents, testifying in court, analyzing records, and discussing case outcomes to improve future actions.

Why This Matters

A proper understanding of CDL regulations is crucial for fair and consistent treatment within the legal system. Our program bridges the gap between courts, law enforcement, and licensing regulations to maintain public safety while ensuring CDL holders' rights are protected, the integrity of the licensing and regulation process, and the continued movement of interstate commerce.

Goal 1: Enhance Educational Outreach

- **Specific:** Develop and deliver new training modules on key licensing regulations and updates for courts, law enforcement, and criminal justice partners.
- **Measurable:** Track attendance, knowledge assessments (pre- and post-training), and participant feedback.
- **Achievable:** Partner with subject matter experts and utilize existing resources to develop content.
- **Relevant:** Addresses the core mission of providing education to support the licensing system.
- **Time-bound:** Complete development and deliver training within the next fiscal year.

Goal 2: Improve Records Accuracy

- **Specific:** Establish a process to proactively identify and resolve systemic records discrepancies that impact legal proceedings.
- **Measurable:** Reduce identified discrepancies by 10% within the next 6 months.
- **Achievable:** Form a working group with relevant stakeholders to design the resolution process.
- **Relevant:** Directly supports accurate records management, crucial for the mission.
- **Time-bound:** Check on progress in 6 months.

Goal 3: Foster Strategic Partnerships

- **Specific:** Participate in joint committees or task forces with law enforcement and court partners to address common challenges within the licensing system.
- **Measurable:** Track participation, meeting outcomes, and implemented recommendations.
- **Achievable:** Identify existing or potential committees aligned with the program's focus.
- **Relevant:** Collaborative problem-solving is central to the mission.
- **Time-bound:** Actively participate in these committees within the next quarter.

Point of Contact

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