

Department of Social and Health Services

Olympia, Washington

EAZ Manual

Revision # 879
Category Fleeing Felons
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Summary

Updated the section on Fleeing Felons related to felons applying for or receiving food assistance benefits.

While fleeing felons are not eligible for food assistance benefits, federal law does not allow department staff to initiate contact with law enforcement regarding the felon.

Please see text below for new text:

4. DSHS Staff Reporting Felons:

In very limited circumstances, staff may report a fleeing felon applying for or receiving cash assistance.

- [RCW 74.04.062](#) allows us to contact the appropriate law enforcement agency when we learn that a person has a **valid** outstanding warrant. These provisions in state law apply to **cash only** clients.
- Federal law under 7 CFR 272.1 (c)(1)(vii) only allows us to disclose information on the whereabouts of a fleeing felon applying for or receiving food assistance as described under section (3)(b) above. It does not allow staff to initiate contact with law enforcement.

We **cannot** contact law enforcement to report a fleeing felon for food assistance, even if the person is also applying for or receiving cash assistance.