

WHATCOM COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**BILL ELFO**  
SHERIFF



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## BOOKING RESTRICTIONS WHATCOM COUNTY JAIL

In an effort to reduce the potential for the introduction and/or spread of COVID-19 in the Whatcom County Sheriff's Corrections facilities; the Sheriff's Office, Prosecutor and Judicial Officers have reached agreement that, effective 03/19/2020, the following booking restrictions are being instituted for the duration of the COVID-19 Crisis.:

Agencies confirming warrants should only confirm those warrants that meet the criteria outlined below;

### **Misdemeanor Offenses:**

The jail will not be booking offenders arrested on either Probable Cause or warrants for Misdemeanor offenses. For those offenders who are cited and released, the County Judicial Officers have requested that Law Enforcement personnel mark the portion of the citation that states that they served the notice to the violator.

### **Gross Misdemeanor Offenses:**

It is strongly suggested that Law Enforcement Offices use the option to Cite and Release offenders rather than bring them to the jail unless they represent a serious threat to the public safety.

Offenders who are arrested for Gross Misdemeanor offenses, either on Probable Cause or Warrants, will be booked and released with the following exceptions:

Individuals arrested on the following charges will be held until they see a Judge:

- Any Domestic Violence Offense
- Harassment
- Stalking
- Violation of no contact or protection orders

Individuals who are arrested on DUI will be booked and held until sober.

### **Felony Offenses:**

It is strongly suggested that whenever possible Law Enforcement Officers take a report on the incident and refer it to the Prosecutor's office for review and filing, unless the incident represents a serious threat to public safety.

Offenders arrested on Felony offenses, both Probable Cause and Warrants, will be booked and released with the following exceptions:

- Crimes Against Persons
- Any Sex Offense
- Any Domestic Violence Offense
- Residential Burglary
- Unlawful Possession of a Firearm
- Felony DUI
- Escape

Offenders booked on the above charges will be held until they see a Judge.

**DOC:**

The jail will not be booking offenders on DOC violations.

If a Law Enforcement Officer has arrested an individual and believes the individual is dangerous to the community, the Corrections Shift Sergeant has the ability to make an exception to these restrictions.

We appreciate the understanding and support as we work to achieve a balance between community safety and the health of individuals housed in the Downtown Jail and Work Center.