



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 24-02**

**(Superseding Executive Order 96-01)**

**PROVIDING FOR THE STATE PATROL TO INVESTIGATE  
CRIMINAL MATTERS INVOLVING DSHS EMPLOYEES**

**WHEREAS**, state government must be fair and impartial in all matters and must treat its employees with the utmost respect and fairness; and

**WHEREAS**, in sensitive matters involving allegations of state employee criminal behavior, state residents must be assured that a thorough and impartial investigation will be conducted and, where appropriate, disciplinary action or criminal prosecution will follow the findings of that investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the state must avoid even the appearance of unfairness in this process; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington residents are entitled to know that Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) employees are subject to impartial criminal investigations by officers trained in criminal matters, in developing cases for successful prosecution, and whose primary responsibilities are to conduct investigations of employee criminal allegations; and

**WHEREAS**, the original Executive Order 96-01 was issued by former Governor Mike Lowry on January 5, 1996, and at that time DSHS's scope of responsibility was broader and encompassed other divisions, including a Children's Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, DSHS was reorganized in 2018 to, among other things, merge its former Children's Administration with the Department of Early Learning to form a standalone, cabinet-level agency called the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF).

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, by virtue of the authority vested in me, order and direct as follows:

1. As of April 1, 2024, the Washington State Patrol (WSP) will begin providing investigation services for all allegations of DSHS employee criminal conduct for DSHS, pursuant to the terms of an interagency agreement, once local law enforcement has been given the right of first refusal to investigate. Criminal conduct includes any allegations that may constitute a gross misdemeanor or felony.

2. As of April 1, 2024, DSHS will assume responsibility for all new major administrative investigations of DSHS employees, including employee misconduct; allegations of willful or malicious disregard of duties and responsibilities; or violations of DSHS policies and procedures; and allegations of civil rights violations, including sexual harassment, retaliation, discrimination, and other inappropriate behaviors.
3. DSHS will refer all allegations of employee criminal conduct to WSP per the terms of the protocols developed between DSHS and WSP in the interagency agreement, only after local law enforcement has been offered right of first refusal to investigate.
4. The interagency agreement shall include procedures for the negotiation and transfer of cases between DSHS and WSP on any major administrative investigation that, after further investigation, appears to involve an allegation of criminal conduct.
5. The interagency agreement shall include procedures for the negotiation and transfer of cases between WSP and DSHS on any allegation of DSHS employee criminal conduct investigation initiated by WSP that appears not to arise to the level of a crime, but instead appears to be a major administrative investigation.
6. The interagency agreement shall address protocols for protection, safeguarding, and security of DSHS client and employee data as required by state and federal law.
7. The interagency agreement shall establish timeliness metrics for referral, transfer, and status updates.
8. DSHS staff will provide training and consultation to WSP investigators regarding unique issues relating to DSHS employees, clients, programs, policies, or guidelines that might assist WSP in conducting criminal investigations, per the terms of the interlocal agreement.
9. DSHS will fund the WSP investigations and associated activities under this order.

