

WSR 26-19-134 - Department of Licensing: Clarify the department of licensing's authority to deny, cancel, or refuse to renew confidential and undercover license plates based on the conduct of units...

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WSR 26-19-134 (26-19) WSR 26-19-134

PERMANENT RULES

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

[Filed September 23, 2026, 8:10 a.m., effective October 24, 2026]

Effective Date of Rule: Thirty-one days after filing.

Purpose: Clarify the department of licensing's authority to deny, cancel, or refuse to renew confidential and undercover license plates based on the conduct of units of local government, state departments, agencies and officials, and federal departments and agencies.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 308-96A-080 Undercover and confidential license plates - Application procedures, and 308-96A-095 Undercover or confidential license plates - Cancellation.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 46.01.110 Rule-making authority.

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 26-16-090 on August 5, 2026.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 2, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: September 23, 2026.

Kelsey Stone

Legislative and Policy Manager

RDS-7229.3

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 06-04-026, filed 1/24/06, effective 2/24/06)

WAC 308-96A-080 Undercover and confidential license plates - Application procedures.

- (1) What are undercover and confidential license plates? They are standard issue license plates assigned only to vehicles owned or operated by government agencies as identified in RCW 46.08.066 . These vehicles include, but are not limited to, off road vehicles, trailers, and snowmobiles.
- (2) When is an undercover or confidential license plate issued? An undercover or confidential license plate is issued to government agencies when being used in confidential, investigative, or undercover work.
- (3) When are undercover and confidential license plates used?
- (a) These plates are used for official business by government agencies or any state elected official.
- (b) For the personal security of any other public officer, or public employee, for use on an unmarked publicly owned or controlled vehicle for the conduct of business for the period of time required.
- (4) How are undercover and confidential vehicles registered?
- (a) An undercover license plate record will show fictitious names and addresses on all department records subject to public disclosure.
- (b) A confidential license plate record will show the government agency name and address on all department records subject to public disclosure.

Matter furnished by the Washington Office of the Code Reviser (Washington State Register). Notice Nearby did not write this notice.

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