

# Criminal Records on Westlaw

## State, Federal, OFAC, and Sex Offender Records

### Overview

Westlaw includes information on criminal offenders that is derived from state court and U.S. district court filings, state departments of corrections records, state sex offender registries, and the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

Use criminal records on Westlaw to

- evaluate a potential client
- investigate an adverse party
- learn about a witness
- check the background of a person with whom your client may do business

### Scope and Coverage

As you research criminal records, it is important to understand the sources and coverage of the databases from which you are obtaining information. To learn about the sources included in a particular database, click the **Scope** icon (ⓘ) on the database Search page. To learn about the starting date of coverage, last date updated, and frequency of update, click **Coverage** on the Search page.

### Prohibited Uses

Criminal records on Westlaw may not be used for employment screening purposes. See the database Scope page for additional information on prohibited uses.

Westlaw is available on the Web at [www.westlaw.com](http://www.westlaw.com).

For technical assistance, call West Customer Technical Support at **1-800-WESTLAW** (1-800-937-8529).

For search assistance, call the West Reference Attorneys at **1-800-REF-ATTY** (1-800-733-2889).

If you are a law student, call **1-800-850-WEST** (1-800-850-9378) for assistance.

Click the **Scope** icon to view detailed information about database content.

Click **Coverage** to view information about starting date of coverage, date last updated, and frequency of update.

The database Search page includes links to Scope and coverage information

## Criminal Record Content

The content of a criminal record on Westlaw varies by source.

- State criminal conviction records typically include the name of the offender; basic case information, such as the court and case number; conviction, verdict, or disposition information; and basic information on the sentence imposed.
- State departments of corrections records typically include the name of the offender; basic identifying characteristics; basic offense information; and basic information on the sentence imposed.
- Federal criminal records typically include the name of the offender; basic case information, such as the court and case number; conviction, verdict, or disposition information; and attorney information.
- Selected records may also include a date of birth; state identification number; incarceration information (such as institution name and location); and parole and probation information.

In general, each criminal record on Westlaw represents a separate offense or crime, so multiple records may arise from a single incident that resulted in multiple charges.

## Criminal Records Databases

### Combined Criminal Records

The Criminal Records–Combined database (CRIM-ALL) combines information on criminal offenders from state court and U.S. district court filings, state departments of corrections records, and state sex offender registries. The database also contains information from OFAC. Coverage varies by source.

### State Criminal Records

Criminal Records–Individual State databases are identified as CRIM-XX, where XX stands for the state’s two-letter postal identifier. Combined state criminal records are included in the CRIM-ALL database.

Criminal offender information is available from 41 states (all but Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming) and the District of Columbia. Sources vary among the states, with records provided by the administrative offices of the courts, the state departments of corrections, or by the departments of public safety. The levels of offense reported (felonies, misdemeanors, traffic offenses, etc.) vary by state.

### Federal Criminal Records

Federal criminal records are available in the Criminal Records–Federal database (CRIM-FED), and they are also included in CRIM-ALL. As available, federal criminal records from the U.S. district courts of a specified state are also included in CRIM-XX databases, where XX stands for the state’s two-letter postal identifier.

Federal criminal offender information is available from most U.S. district courts (all but the U.S. district courts in Alaska, S.D. Indiana, Nevada, New Mexico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands). Each record contains the nature of the charged offense and, when applicable, the case outcome.

### State Sex Offender Registries

Sex offender registry records are available in the Criminal Records–Sex Offender Registry database (CRIM-SOR) and they are also included in CRIM-ALL.

Information derived from sex offender registry records is available from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The information provided varies by state. Some states only include information on high risk offenders released or convicted of an offense on or after a specific date. Records may not reflect the current residence, status, or other information regarding the registrant. For more information about the sex offender information available for a selected state, see the Scope page for CRIM-SOR.

### Office of Foreign Assets Control

OFAC’s current listing of specially designated nationals and blocked persons is available in the Office of Foreign Assets Control database (OFAC) and is also included in CRIM-ALL.

## Search Examples

### Template Searches

Criminal records databases feature easy-to-use search templates. To search by name, simply type the subject's name in the *Name* text box. Connect the terms you enter with the /3 connector.

- To search Florida criminal records for information about Theodore Bundy, access the Criminal Records–Florida database (CRIM-FL) and type **theodore /3 bundy** in the *Name* text box.
- To search combined state and federal criminal records for information about John Gacy, access the Criminal Records Combined database (CRIM-ALL), and type **john /3 gacy** in the *Name* text box.

Note: Entering a date of birth (optional) can focus your search results, but may also exclude potentially relevant records that do not include a date of birth.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw search interface. The search criteria are: Name (required): theodore /3 bundy; Date of Birth (optional): [empty]. The search results show 9 documents. The first result is expanded to show offender information and court/case details.

**Search Results Table:**

Rank	Name	Date of Birth	Offense	Offense Date	State
1.	BUNDY THEODORE R	11/24/1946	1ST DEG MUR/PREMED.OR ATT.	01/15/1978	FL
2.	BUNDY THEODORE R	11/24/1946	1ST DEG MUR/PREMED.OR ATT.	01/15/1978	FL
3.	BUNDY THEODORE R	11/24/1946	BURG/DWELL/OCCUP.CONVEY	01/15/1978	FL

**Offender Information:**

Offender Name: BUNDY THEODORE R  
Date of Birth: 11/24/1946  
Gender: MALE  
Race: WHITE  
Eye Color: BLUE  
Height: 5 FT. 11 IN.

**COURT & CASE INFORMATION**

Case Number: 7800670

**CURRENT CHARGE OR OFFENSE INFORMATION**

Date of Offense: 01/15/1978  
Location of Offense: DADE  
Statute Violated: FL ST 782.04(1)(a)1  
Offense Charged: 1ST DEG MUR/PREMED.OR ATT.

A search in the CRIM-FL database

## Terms and Connectors Searches

Most of your searches in criminal records databases will be by name using a database search template, as described on the previous page. If you want to search using other types of information for your search terms, e.g. type of offense or court, use the Terms and Connectors search method. To access the Terms and Connectors search page, click **Standard Search** on the Template Search page. Use the database Scope page to learn about the content of the database you have selected to search.

### Examples

- To retrieve Minnesota criminal records for cases prosecuted in Hennepin County under the perjury statute (Minn. Stat. § 609.48), access the Criminal Records–Minnesota database (CRIM-MN). Click **Standard Search** to access the Terms and Connectors Search page and type **hennepin & 609.48 perjury** in the text box.
- To retrieve Washington criminal records for cases prosecuted in Klickitat County under the vehicular homicide statute (RCW § 46.61.520), access the Criminal Records–Washington database (CRIM-WA). Click **Standard Search** to access the Terms and Connectors Search page and type **klickitat & 46.61.520 “vehicular homicide”** in the text box.

For search assistance, call the West Reference Attorneys at 1-800-REF-ATTY (1-800-733-2889) or send an e-mail message to [west.referenceattorneys@thomson.com](mailto:west.referenceattorneys@thomson.com).