**Suspected or convicted serial killers in Washington**

What is a serial killer? Even the nation's leading experts don't agree. The most general definition is based on numbers and patterns. Two or more unrelated victims in distinctly separate incidents. The Northwest has a notorious history of these “prototypical” killers who have left lasting and indelible marks on this area. The Bow and Arrow Slayer and the Green River killer, who are synonymous with the term “serial killer.”

Both, other than infamous killers have claimed lives of cross the state line. Some have been convicted, others not. Not a single killer in Washington is a suspect of more than four. More remain only suspects, pending trial. Following general definitions provided by the FBI Behavioral Science Unit, criminal profiling and other experts, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer compiled this list of the state's modern-day serial killers.

It's impossible to know if the list is comprehensive. There's no national database of serial killers. Some have been on the loose for decades. Others are hiding in their mother's basement. But it does show that killers roam our state at any time, breaking laws in a hidden enforcement system that only fails to protect the missing or bring justice for the dead.

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**John R. Gasser**  
Suspect, no charge. Seattle, Olympia  
Believed to have killed one person in 1988, Gasser raped and strangled a 15-year-old boy over the Weekend or November. Authorities believe Gasser is a multiple rapist. He was shot and stopped a 45-year-old woman and dumped her body outside Olympia in 1988. **Status:** In prison in Washington.

**The Want Ad Killer**  
James Edward Ruzicka, Longview  
Suspended in many cases, Ruzicka was convicted in 1988 of murdering two teenagers in Battle Ground. Ruzicka is thought to have killed at least two women in 1988. He was convicted in 1988 of murdering two teenagers in Battle Ground. **Status:** In prison in Washington.

**Three Strikes Killer**  
Warren Forrest, Stanwood  
Raped and killed three women in Snohomish County. In 1990, Forrest was arrested on suspicion of stabbing three women in Snohomish County. **Status:** In prison in Washington.

**The Hillside Strangler**  
Gary G. Grant  
Abducted, raped and strangled two women, dumped their bodies near richland. In 1990, a judge ruled that Grant had confessed to an additional seven murders. **Status:** In prison in Washington.

**The Hillside Strangler**  
Charles Sinclair  
Raped and killed three women in Snohomish County. In 1990, Sinclair confessed to murdering three women in Snohomish County. **Status:** In prison in Washington.

**The Phantom Sniper**  
Gary A. Taylor  
Abducted, killed and burned a Barrett female, suspected of killing at least one to four women, and one time traveled to them about 15 miles off shootings on Texas freeways. **Status:** In prison in Washington.

**The JT Killer**  
Gary Todd Whitworth  
Suspended in many cases, Whitworth was convicted in 1988 of murdering two teenagers in Bothell. In 1990, Whitworth was arrested on suspicion of murdering at least 15 women in King County. **Status:** In prison in Washington.

**The Index Killer**  
Robert Lee Parker  
Suspended or convicted serial killers in Washington  
Suspended in many cases, Parker was convicted in 1988 of murdering two teenagers in Yakima Valley. In 1990, Parker was arrested on suspicion of murdering at least 15 women in King County. **Status:** In prison in Washington.

**The 22 Killer**  
Gary Wayne Wetmore  
Suspended in many cases, Wetmore was convicted in 1988 of murdering two teenagers in Yakima Valley. In 1990, Wetmore was arrested on suspicion of murdering at least 15 women in King County. **Status:** In prison in Washington.

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