

**Chapter 40.16 RCW  
PENAL PROVISIONS**

**Sections**

40.16.010 Injury to public record.  
40.16.020 Injury to and misappropriation of record.  
40.16.030 Offering false instrument for filing or record.

*Fraud: Chapter 9A.60 RCW.*

*Materials specifically authorized to be printed and distributed by secretary of state: RCW 43.07.140.*

*Misconduct of public officers: Chapter 42.20 RCW.*

*Public works accounts and records, penalty for falsifying: RCW 39.04.110.*

**RCW 40.16.010 Injury to public record.** Every person who shall willfully and unlawfully remove, alter, mutilate, destroy, conceal, or obliterate a record, map, book, paper, document, or other thing filed or deposited in a public office, or with any public officer, by authority of law, is guilty of a class C felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for not more than five years, or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or by both. [2003 c 53 § 214; 1992 c 7 § 34; 1909 c 249 § 95; RRS § 2347.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**RCW 40.16.020 Injury to and misappropriation of record.** Every officer who shall mutilate, destroy, conceal, erase, obliterate, or falsify any record or paper appertaining to the officer's office, or who shall fraudulently appropriate to the officer's own use or to the use of another person, or secrete with intent to appropriate to such use, any money, evidence of debt or other property intrusted to the officer by virtue of the officer's office, is guilty of a class B felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for not more than ten years, or by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars, or by both. [2003 c 53 § 215; 1992 c 7 § 35; 1909 c 249 § 96; RRS § 2348.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**RCW 40.16.030 Offering false instrument for filing or record.** Every person who shall knowingly procure or offer any false or forged instrument to be filed, registered, or recorded in any public office, which instrument, if genuine, might be filed, registered or recorded in such office under any law of this state or of the United States, is guilty of a class C felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for not more than five years, or by a fine

of not more than five thousand dollars, or by both. [2003 c 53 § 216; 1992 c 7 § 36; 1909 c 249 § 97; RRS § 2349.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.