



Washington's Charity Care Laws: RCW 70-170 & WAC 246-453

Hospitals must provide charity care to those below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

State Law **Requirements**

- Provide notice of the availability of charity care verbally and in writing
- Screen patients for charity care eligibility before attempting to collect payment
- Require patients to provide only one income-related document to show their eligibility

St. Joseph Alleged **Violations**

- Demanded payment three times before providing charity care information
- Failed to screen patients for charity care eligibility before collecting payment
- Required multiple forms of income documentation, resulting in denial of 50% of applications