

Criminal Justice Process For Special Assault Cases In King County

Process:	Timeline:
Initial police report filed: Case is assigned to detective for investigation.	1 – 7 days.
Interview: Victim interview with detective; joint detective/prosecutor or child interview specialist. Victim has right to have an advocate present at interview.	Usually within two weeks of police report.

Arrest of suspect: Depending on case circumstances. Suspect may be arrested and released.	<i>Possibly at time of report, booking, arraignment or if there is a violation of no contact order.</i>
Investigation completed: Case submitted to prosecutor for filing decision	Usually within three months
Prosecutor: Decides to file charges, declines to file charges or sends case back to detective for more investigation.	Usually within three months of case being submitted to prosecutor.
Arraignment: The defendant is informed of the charges, bail amount set, and no contact order is entered. Victim may address concerns regarding bail; safety in community, and/or concern defendant will flee.	Occurs within two weeks of charges being filed.
Case Setting Hearing: The case is either: (1) set for trial, (2) plea date is set, or (3) continued for further discussions of (1) or (2).	Occurs within three weeks of arraignment. Commonly there is 4 - 10 case setting hearings set 3-4 weeks apart.

If case goes to trial:	If suspect pleads guilty:
Defense Interview: Defense attorney has right to interview all witnesses in case. Victim has right to have prosecutor and advocate present at interview. Defendant is <u>not</u> present at interview.	Plea Hearing: Defendant enters a plea of guilty and sentencing date is set approximately 4-6 weeks after plea.
Omnibus Hearing: Trial readiness hearing. Set about ten days in advance of trial.	Sentencing: Normally held on Friday afternoons. Victim has a right to address the court at the sentencing in person, in writing or through their advocate.
Trial: Generally trial date is 6 months – 1 ½ year from arraignment date. Victim has right to have advocate or support person present in court when they testify. Trial outcome will be conviction, hung jury or acquittal. If defendant is found guilty, sentencing will be set out 4 –6 weeks.	Note: Your Legal Advocate will provide support and information regarding your rights and choices through each step of the legal process. Please let your advocate know if you have any questions or concerns. This information is provided by King County Sexual Assault Resource Center. If you need to speak to someone immediately, please call our 24hr resource line at 1-888-99VOICE.

