

Criminal Child Physical Abuse Cases in King County (2014)

CourtWatch tracked 40 child physical abuse cases¹ filed in 2014 against adult defendants in King County Superior Court.

General Information:

King County Courthouse (Seattle): 45%
Maleng Regional Justice Center (Kent): 55%

Male Defendant: 80%
Female Defendant: 20%

Victims aged 0-1 year: 7%
Victims aged 2-5 years: 13%
Victims aged 6-10 years: 62%
Victims aged 11-13 years: 11%
Victims aged 14-17 years: 7%

26% of defendants had a reported history of domestic violence, abuse and/or neglect. Drugs and alcohol were a factor, or the defendants had a history of drug and/or alcohol abuse in 3% of cases.

Relationships Between Victims and Defendants:

Parent: 52.5%
Parent's Significant Other/Stepparent: 30%
Acquaintance/Friend: 5%

Other Relative: 5%
Stranger: 5%
Foster Parent: 2.5%

Resolution of Cases:

As of December 8, 2016, 5% of these cases were still pending due to outstanding warrants. The other 95% of cases were resolved² by guilty plea in 74% of cases, dismissal in 18% of cases, and a guilty verdict after trial in 8% of cases.

For resolved cases, the median time to resolution for these cases was 8 months, and the average time to resolution was approximately 9.5 months.

Law Enforcement Jurisdictions:

King County: 27.5%
Seattle: 15%
Kent: 12.5%
Federal Way: 10%
Renton: 7.5%
Auburn: 5%
Bellevue: 5%

Issaquah: 5%
Algona: 2.5%
Bothell: 2.5%
Des Moines: 2.5%
Kirkland: 2.5%
Tukwila: 2.5%

¹ Child physical abuse offenses that we track include: Assault in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Degrees, Assault of a Child in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Degrees; and Criminal Mistreatment in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degrees

² We consider a case to be resolved once the case has been dismissed; the defendant has been acquitted; or after the defendant has been convicted and sentenced.

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