

Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) Cases in King County Superior Court (2011)

CourtWatch tracked 70 Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) cases filed in or transferred to King County Superior Court in 2011.

Venue:

King County Courthouse: 54%
Maleng Regional Justice Center: 46%

Ages of the Parties Involved:

Petitioner:		Respondent:	
Minor:	44%	Minor:	21%
Adult:	56%	Adult:	79%

Relationship Between Petitioner & Respondent:

Acquaintance: 60%
Family Member: 18%
Stranger: 10%
Current or Former Spouse/Partner: 6%
Unknown: 3%
Professional service provider: 3%

Intersection With Criminal Proceedings:

In at least **54% of cases**, the sexual assault was **reported** to CPS and/or law enforcement.

Duration of SAPO Cases:

Cases **averaged 2 hearings before a resolution was reached**. There were 3 cases where there were 5 or more hearings were held before a resolution was reached.¹

How SAPO Cases Were Resolved:

Granted after hearing:	24%	Agreed SAPO entered:	2%
Granted, respondent absent:	21%	Agreed Dismissal:	2%
Dismissed, Both parties absent:	20%	Dismissed, petitioner absent:	2%
Dismissed after hearing:	17%	Other PO granted:	2%
Dismissed at petitioner's request:	10%		

¹ All but 1 of those cases involved attorneys

Remedies for Victims:

- All of the SAPOs that were granted included **“stay away” protection** for the petitioner
- The **school transfer** remedy was granted in 15% of cases where a SAPO issued
- **Duration of the SAPO:** A SAPO was granted for two years in 88% of cases where a SAPO was issued and for one year or less in 12% of cases where a SAPO was issued

Legal Representation: Attorneys were involved in 35% of SAPO cases tracked

- **Both parties were represented** in 17% of cases
 - SAPOs were dismissed in 42% of those cases
 - SAPOs were granted in 33% of those cases
 - An agreement was reached in 17% of those cases
 - Another type of protection order was entered in 8% of those cases
- **Only the petitioner was represented** in 4% of cases
 - SAPOs were granted in 67% of those cases
 - SAPOs were dismissed in 33% of those cases
- **Only the respondent was represented** in 14% of case
 - SAPOs were granted in 60% of those cases
 - SAPOs were dismissed in 40% of those cases