

**Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) Cases in King County Superior Court (2012)**

CourtWatch tracked 93 Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) cases filed in or transferred to King County Superior Court in 2012.

**Venue:**

King County Courthouse: 47%  
Maleng Regional Justice Center: 53%

**Ages of the Parties Involved:**

<b>Petitioner:</b>		<b>Respondent:</b>	
Minor:	49%	Minor:	27%
Adult:	51%	Adult:	73%

**Relationship Between Petitioner & Respondent:**

Acquaintance: 60%  
Family Member: 22%  
Current or Former Spouse/Partner: 8%  
Stranger: 5%  
Unknown: 3%  
Professional service provider: 2%

**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 8 cases where there were 5 or more hearings were held before a resolution was reached.<sup>1</sup>

**How SAPO Cases Were Resolved:**

Granted after hearing:	25%	Agreed SAPO entered:	4%
Dismissed after hearing:	20%	Other PO granted:	4%
Granted, respondent absent:	19%	Dismissed at petitioner's request:	4%
Dismissed, Both parties absent:	16%	Dismissed, petitioner absent:	3%
Agreed Dismissal:	5%		

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<sup>1</sup> 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 16% of cases where a SAPO was issued
- **Duration of the SAPO:** A SAPO was granted for two years in 84% of cases where a SAPO was issued and for one year or less in 16% of cases where a SAPO was issued

**Legal Representation:** Attorneys were involved in 30% of SAPO cases tracked

- **Both parties were represented** in 17% of cases
  - An agreement was reached in 50% of those cases
  - SAPOs were granted in 31% of those cases
  - SAPOs were dismissed in 19% of those cases
- **Only the petitioner was represented** in 8% of cases
  - SAPOs were granted in 86% of those cases
  - Another type of protection order was granted in 14% of those cases
- **Only the respondent was represented** in 5% of case
  - SAPOs were dismissed in 80% of those cases
  - SAPOs were granted in 20% of those cases