

**Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) Cases in King County Superior Court (2013)**

CourtWatch tracked 67 Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) cases filed in or transferred to King County Superior Court in 2013.

**Venue:**

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

**Ages of the Parties Involved:**

**Petitioner:**

Minor: 42%  
Adult: 58%

**Respondent:**

Minor: 15%  
Adult: 85%

**Relationship Between Petitioner & Respondent:**

Acquaintance: 55%  
Family Member: 18%  
Unknown: 13%  
Stranger: 9%  
Current or Former Spouse/Partner: 5%

**Intersection With Criminal Proceedings:**

In at least **75% 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 6 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:	30%	Agreed SAPO entered:	5%
Granted, respondent absent:	21%	Dismissed, Both parties absent:	5%
Dismissed, petitioner absent:	16%	Other PO granted-	5%
Dismissed after hearing:	10%	Agreed Dismissal <sup>2</sup> :	1%
Dismissed at petitioner's request:	7%		

<sup>1</sup> All but 1 of those cases involved attorneys

<sup>2</sup> There were attorneys involved and the agreed dismissal was the result of a private agreement between the parties.

### **Remedies for Victims:**

- All of the SAPOs that were granted included **“stay away” protection** for the petitioner
- The **school transfer** remedy was granted in 3% of cases where a SAPO was issued
- **Duration of the SAPO:** A SAPO was granted for two years in 90% of cases where a SAPO was issued and for one year or less in 10% of cases where a SAPO was issued

### **Legal Representation:** Attorneys were involved in 36% of SAPO cases tracked

- **Both parties were represented** in 17% of cases
  - SAPOs were granted in 73% of those cases
  - SAPOS were dismissed in 27% of those cases
- **Only the petitioner was represented** in 6% of cases
  - SAPOs were granted in 100% of those cases
- **Only the respondent was represented** in 13% of cases
  - SAPOs were dismissed in 78% of those cases
  - SAPOs were granted in 11% of those cases
  - Another type of protection order was granted in 11% of those cases.