

Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) Cases in King County Superior Court (2014)

CourtWatch tracked 80 Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) cases filed in or transferred to King County Superior Court in 2014.

Venue:

King County Courthouse: 52%
Maleng Regional Justice Center: 48%

Ages of the Parties Involved:

Petitioner:		Respondent:	
Minor:	41%	Minor:	25%
Adult:	59%	Adult:	75%

Relationship Between Petitioner & Respondent:

Acquaintance: 78%
Family Member: 15%
Stranger: 6%
Current or Former Spouse/Partner: 1%

Intersection With Criminal Proceedings:

In at least **58% of cases**, the sexual assault was **reported** to CPS and/or law enforcement.

Duration of SAPO Cases:

The cases that have been resolved **averaged 2 hearings before a resolution was reached**. There were 4 cases where there were 5 or more hearings were held before a resolution was reached.¹

How SAPO Cases Were Resolved:

Dismissed after hearing:	26%	Dismissed at petitioner’s request:	6%
Granted after hearing:	24%	Dismissed, petitioner absent:	4%
Agreed Dismissal ² :	13%	Agreed SAPO entered:	2%
Granted, respondent absent:	13%	Pending:	1%
Dismissed, Both parties absent:	11%		

¹ All of those cases involved attorneys

² 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 10% of cases where a SAPO issued
- **Duration of the SAPO:** A SAPO was granted for two years in 80% of cases where a SAPO was issued and for one year or less in 20% of cases where a SAPO was issued

Legal Representation: Attorneys were involved in 50% of SAPO cases tracked

- **Both parties were represented** in 26% of cases
 - SAPOs were dismissed in 47% of those cases
 - SAPOs were granted in 29% of those cases
 - An agreement was reached in 19% of those cases
 - 5% of those cases are still pending.
- **Only the petitioner was represented** in 9% of cases
 - An agreement was reached in 57% of those cases
 - SAPOs were granted in 29% of those cases
 - SAPOs were dismissed in 14% of those cases
- **Only the respondent was represented** in 15% of cases
 - SAPOs were dismissed in 56% of those cases
 - SAPOs were granted in 33% of those cases
 - An agreement was reached in 11% of those cases