

**Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) Cases in King County Superior Court (2015)**

CourtWatch tracked 73 Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) cases filed in or transferred to King County Superior Court in 2015.

**Venue:**

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

**Ages of the Parties Involved:**

| <b>Petitioner:</b> |     | <b>Respondent:</b> |     |
|--------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Minor:             | 60% | Minor:             | 21% |
| Adult:             | 40% | Adult:             | 79% |

**Relationship Between Petitioner & Respondent:**

Acquaintance: 72%  
Family Member: 15%  
Stranger: 7%  
Care provider: 3%  
Current or Former Spouse/Partner: 3%

**Intersection With Criminal Proceedings:**

In at least **90% 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.<sup>1</sup>

**How SAPO Cases Were Resolved:**

|                                 |     |  |    |
|---------------------------------|-----|--|----|
| Dismissed after hearing:        | 23% | Agreed Dismissal <sup>2</sup> :        | 3% |
| Dismissed- Both parties absent: | 21% | Dismissed at petitioner’s request:     | 3% |
| Granted, respondent absent:     | 18% | Dismissed, Petitioner absent:          | 3% |
| Granted after hearing:          | 16% | Pending:                               | 3% |
| Other type of PO entered:       | 5%  | Dismissed, unable to serve respondent: | 1% |
| Agreed SAPO Entered:            | 4%  |  |    |

<sup>1</sup> All 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 7% of cases where a SAPO was issued
- **Duration of the SAPO:** A SAPO was granted for two years in 63% of cases where a SAPO was issued; for one year or less in 33% of cases where a SAPO was issued; and in 4% of cases the SAPO was granted for longer than the statutorily- permitted (two-year) time period.

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

- **Both parties were represented** in 12% of cases
  - SAPOs were dismissed in 50% of those cases
  - An agreement was reached in 20% of those cases
  - SAPOs were granted in 10% of cases
  - 20% of those cases are still pending
- **Only the petitioner was represented** in 8% of cases
  - SAPOs were dismissed in 50% of those cases
  - An agreement was reached in 33% of those cases
  - A different type of protection order was granted in 12% of cases
  - 5% of those cases are still pending
- **Only the respondent was represented** in 10% of cases
  - SAPOs were dismissed in 58% of those cases
  - SAPOs were granted in 14% of those cases
  - A different type of protection order was granted in 14% of those cases
  - 14% of those cases are still pending