

Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) Cases in King County Superior Court (2016)

CourtWatch tracked 73 Sexual Assault Protection Order (SAPO) cases filed in or transferred to King County Superior Court in 2016.

Venue:

King County Courthouse:	51%
Maleng Regional Justice Center:	49%

Ages of the Parties Involved:

Petitioner:		Respondent:	
Minor:	55%	Minor:	32%
Adult:	45%	Adult:	68%

Relationship Between Petitioner & Respondent:

Acquaintance:	66%	Parent's Partner/Ex:	4%
Family Member:	14%	Care provider:	1%
Stranger:	8%		
Current or Former Spouse/Partner	7% ¹		

Intersection With Criminal Proceedings:

In at least **78% of cases**, the sexual assault was **reported** to law enforcement.

Duration of SAPO Cases:

The cases that have been resolved **averaged 2 hearings before a resolution was reached**. There were 6 cases where there were 4 or more hearings were held before a resolution was reached.²

How SAPO Cases Were Resolved:

Granted after hearing:	22%	Agreed SAPO Entered:	8%
Dismissed, Petitioner absent:	15%	Dismissed at petitioner's request:	7%
Granted, respondent absent:	14%	Other type of PO entered:	5%
Dismissed after hearing:	12%	Agreed Dismissal:	4%
Dismissed- Both parties absent:	10%	Pending:	3%

¹ See RCW 7.90.030(1)(a)

² All 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 13% of cases where a SAPO was issued
- **Duration of the SAPO:** A SAPO was granted for two years in 69% of cases where a SAPO was issued; for one year or less in 25% of cases where a SAPO was issued; and in 6% of cases the SAPO was granted for longer than the statutorily- permitted (two-year) time period.

Legal Representation: Attorneys were involved in 47% of SAPO cases tracked

- **Both parties were represented** in 27% of SAPO cases
 - An agreement was reached in 45% of those cases
 - SAPOs were granted in 25% of cases
 - SAPOs were dismissed in 20% of those cases
 - 10% of those cases are still pending
- **Only the petitioner was represented** in 3% of cases
 - SAPOs were granted in 50% of those cases
 - SAPOs were dismissed in 50% of those cases
- **Only the respondent was represented** in 19% of cases
 - SAPOs were dismissed in 64% of those cases
 - SAPOs were granted in 29% of those cases
 - A different type of protection order was granted in 7% of those cases