

SPECIAL SEX OFFENDER DISPOSITION ALTERNATIVE (SSODA)

The Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA) is a two-year probation program focused on sex offender therapy. Typically, youth granted a SSODA sentence serve a two-year probation term in lieu of serving their standard range commitment time at an institution (Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA)), hence a “suspended sentence.” If a youth is out of compliance with the probation requirements and/or treatment, his/her probation sentence can be revoked and the youth is sentenced to serve the maximum standard range sentence at the institution.

There are several factors considered determining a youth’s eligibility for SSODA, primarily:

- Psychosexual evaluation results
- Polygraph results
- Family support and ability to supervise (supervision requirements are strict)
- Youth’s motivation to comply with SSODA conditions

All above factors are part of assessing a youth’s “risk to community” and ability to be “rehabilitated” in the community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will happen at arraignment?

- On the day of the hearing, the youth will plead not guilty to the offense and the court will make a decision whether the youth will be detained or released back into the community with conditions. The probation officer will make a recommendation to the court regarding release or detention. A probation officer will attempt to contact the youth prior the court date to prepare. Because allegations of sexual offenses are serious, the release conditions in such cases are very strict. The following are a list of conditions that **are likely to** be imposed:
 - Reside only at the address designated by the court.
 - Must be supervised at all times by supervisors approved by the court (i.e., parents or other adults authorized by the court and probation).
 - Travel is restricted to Pierce, King, Kitsap, and Thurston Counties.
 - Remain at home in the company of an approved adult (exceptions will be made for school and line-of-sight supervision by a court approved adult).
 - Obey rules of parent/supervising adult.
 - Maintain contact with the assigned probation officer. The probation officer will provide youth with a specific day to call and check in.
 - Attend school or place of employment without absences and maintain best effort.
 - No violations of any criminal laws
 - No contact with the alleged victim(s), witness(es), co-defendant(s). This includes contact through electronic means or third parties.
 - Will not be allowed to reside with any victim.
 - Cannot possess guns, firearms, ammunition, or other weapons.
 - No unsupervised contact with children who are more than 24 months younger than the youth. A youth will not be allowed to share a bedroom with younger siblings. A youth will also be required to place an alarm on his or her bedroom door.

- No unsupervised internet activity. If internet access is needed, a parent must be view the screen with the youth.
- Cannot possess electronics that access the internet.

If I am placed on SSODA probation, what does that mean?

- Instead of being sent to serve a sentence at the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, the court has decided to place you on two years of specialized probation where sex offender treatment is the focus. You are given this opportunity based on your sex offender evaluation recommendations, assessed risk level, compliance with pre-trial conditions, family support and your willingness to participate in the treatment program and follow SSODA conditions. This requires, but not limited to, the following:
 - Full participation in adolescent sex offender treatment.
 - No further law violations.
 - Periodic polygraph tests to measure compliance with probation.
 - No possession of pornographic material.
 - Regular attendance and acceptable behavior at school.
 - Follow the supervision plan devised by your probation officer and therapist.
 - Complete HIV testing and Registration requirements.

Will my school be contacted?

- After arraignment, a subpoena will be sent to your school requesting your transcripts and a copy of your disciplinary file. If you are adjudicated and placed on probation, your school will receive official notification of your probation period and the offense for which you were placed on probation.

What if I am involved in extracurricular activities?

- It is important to inform the probation officer of all clubs, athletics, religious activities, and travel plans. Probation will work with you and make accommodations for these activities when possible, given that appropriate supervision will be provided.

How can I change my probation officer?

- Requests for a change in a probation officer (PO) can be done so by calling the PO's supervisor. A request does not result in an automatic change, but the supervisor would like to hear your concerns and try to resolve the situation.

CONTACT US

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