

A juvenile may petition the Court for SSODA after they've been adjudicated for a felony sexual offense. SSODA permits a Juvenile Court Commissioner to suspend a period of confinement to the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA), while still imposing up to 30 days detention along with a 24-month period of Community Supervision that has specific sexual offender treatment requirements as established by the SSODA Appendix B.

Offenders are required to participate in sex offender treatment and follow the rules of probation or the sentencing alternative will be revoked and the standard range sentence imposed. Treatment may include individual, group, and family counseling. SSODA is intended to provide early intensive treatment intervention to reduce the number of first time sex offender who recidivate and to avoid confining first time juvenile sex offenders in Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration Institutions.

The Court's decision is based on a Pre-Disposition report completed by the Probation Unit and a psycho-sexual evaluation completed by a certified sex offender treatment provider. In addition to a recommendation from both Defense Counsel and Prosecuting Attorney.

Research has shown that untreated sexual offenders almost always re-offend and progress to more serious offense behavior. The goal of the SSODA program is to identify first time sex offenders who are amenable to treatment and aggressively pursue treatment.

RCW 9A.44.143 - Relief from duty to register for sex offense or kidnapping offense committed when offender was a juvenile --Petition -- Exception. (Please refer to RCW for details on process)

RCW 13.50.050 - Eligibility to seal sex offense.

- Class A: 5 years crime free and no convictions for Rape 1, Rape 2, or Indecent Liberties with forcible compulsion.
- All others: 2 years conviction free
- No pending charges (seeking conviction or diversion)
- Not required to register as a sex offender
- Full restitution paid
- Motion/Notice to seal the record

CONTACT

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**WHAT
IS
SSODA?**

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SPECIAL SEX OFFENDER DISPOSITION ALTERNATIVE

The 1990 Washington State Legislature passed an ambitious law relating to community protection from sex offenders called the Community Protection Act.

The law established a Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA) for juvenile sex offenders which allows the court to suspend a criminal sentence and require the offender to receive outpatient treatment by a Washington State Certified sexual treatment provider.

Some of the factors associated with whether the offender receives SSODA are:

- ✓ No history of prior sex offense.
- ✓ Treatment can be provided with minimal risk to the community.
- ✓ Youth can be treated while living in their own home or an alternative community placement and certified treatment providers are available.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. There are no socio-economic factors that distinguish the sexual assaulter from the general population.
2. A large majority of offenders are known to and often related to the victim.
3. Approximately one-third of sexual offenses against children are committed by teenagers. Sexual offenses against young children, under 12 years of age, are typically committed by boys between the ages of 12-15 years old.
4. Adolescent sex offenders are significantly different from adult sex offenders in several ways:
 - ☞ Adolescent sex offenders are considered to be more responsive to treatment than adult sex offenders and do not appear to continue re-offending into adulthood, especially when provided with appropriate treatment.
 - ☞ Adolescent sex offenders have fewer numbers of victims than adult offenders and, on average, engage in less serious and aggressive behaviors.
 - ☞ Most adolescents do not have deviant sexual arousal and/or deviant sexual fantasies that many adult sex offenders have.
 - ☞ Most adolescents are not sexual predators nor do they meet the accepted criteria for pedophilia.
5. Contrary to common assumption, most adolescent sex offenders have not been victims of childhood sexual abuse.