

Sexual Violence Bench Guide for Judicial Officers

This bench guide was originally developed as the *Sexual Offense Bench Guide* by the Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission in 2013, in collaboration with judicial officers, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC), the Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP), and law students.

The 2018 edition updates all of the original chapters with new case law and statutory changes, and expands the guide to include chapters on civil sexual assault issues.¹ It is the result of an extensive multi-year effort by judicial officers, attorneys, and law students to bring an updated, relevant, accessible resource on this important issue to Washington State judicial officers

In 2021, Chapter 1 was updated to include more current and evolving research from *2021: How Gender and Race Affect Justice Now*. Some of the Appendices to Chapter 9 were also updated consistent with significant legislative changes to the civil protection order law with the passage of HB 1320 and codification of the new Chapter 7.105 RCW.²

In 2022, Chapter 9 was significantly revised consistent with Chapter 7.105 RCW, and additional appendices were added to include resources created by the E2SHB 1320 Stakeholder Group.

In 2023, Chapters 2, 3, and 9 were updated consistent with legislative changes and new case law. Chapter 10 was revised consistent with more current research, terminology, and best practices. Chapter 12 was updated consistent with updated guidance from federal agencies as well as new legislation, court rules, and rules of professional conduct.³

Updates and revisions to the *Sexual Violence Manual for Judges* are coordinated by the Gender and Justice Commission's [Domestic & Sexual Violence \(DSV\) Committee](#).

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