

**THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS FOR SPECIAL ASSAULT CASES  
IN KING COUNTY:**


<b>INITIAL POLICE REPORT FILED:</b>		<b>TIMELINE:</b>	
Case assigned to detective for investigation		1-7 days	
Victim interview with detective, joint detective/ prosecutor or child interview specialist		Usually within 2 weeks of police report	
<b>ARREST OF SUSPECT:</b>		<b>TIMELINE:</b>	
NOTE: This may or may not occur depending on the circumstances and likelihood that the defendant will flee if not jailed. The suspect may be arrested and released.			
Investigation completed - case submitted to prosecutor		Within 3 months	
Charges filed or declined		Within 2 months of case being submitted to the prosecutor	
Arraignment (The suspect is informed of charges and his/her rights and a plea is entered)		Within 2 weeks of charges being filed	
Case scheduling hearing (The case is either: 1, set for trial, 2, guilty plea is entered, or 3, continued for further discussions of 1 or 2)		Within 3 weeks of arraignment	
<b>IF CASE GOES TO TRIAL:</b>		<b>TIMELINE:</b>	
Pre-trial hearings (Admissibility for confession evidence from search warrants, etc.)			
Omnibus hearing (Trial readiness hearing.)		Set 10 days in advance of trial	
Trial		Trials generally last 3-4 days. (Set 90 days from the date of arraignment if defendant out of jail, or 60 days if defendants in jail. NOTE: The defendant may be granted a continuance in which case trial dates may get extended months into the future)	
If defendant guilty...sentencing		Held on Friday afternoons before the judge who conducted the trial. They are scheduled in advance on the court calendar and within 40 days of a trial.	
If suspect pleads guilty...sentencing		Held on Friday afternoon before the judge assigned when plea entered. Approximately one month after plea.	



  
**LEGAL AND  
MEDICAL ADVOCACY SERVICES**  


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 CHILDREN'S RESPONSE CENTER

 <p><b>CHILDREN'S RESPONSE CENTER</b> Services for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress</p>	<p>Children's Response Center Overlake Hospital Medical Center 1120 112th Avenue NE Suite 130, East Building Bellevue, Washington 98004</p>
CHILDREN'S RESPONSE CENTER IS MANAGED BY HARBORVIEW MEDICAL CENTER.	

PLEASE CALL CHILDREN'S RESPONSE CENTER FOR MORE INFORMATION.  
 PHONE: **425.688.5130** WEB: [www.ChildrensResponseCenter.org](http://www.ChildrensResponseCenter.org)

## LEGAL AND MEDICAL ADVOCACY SERVICES

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Children's Response Center's Legal and Medical Advocacy Services address the need for the guidance and counsel of a trusted support system during a time of crisis and upheaval. The Center provides advocacy for children and youth through age 17, and their non-offending family members. Families do not have to be enrolled in counseling services to access our help. Referrals for advocacy services are often received from other agencies, private counselors and parents.

### **MEDICAL ADVOCACY SERVICES:**

Children's Response Center provides advocacy and coordination of medical exams to evaluate sexual abuse, including documentation for possible court and child protection activities. This includes facilitating a referral to Harborview Medical Center for evaluation and assessment of medical needs by specially trained staff and social workers.

### **LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICES:**

Children's Response Center advocates for families affected by crimes including, sexual assault, physical abuse, survivors of homicide and kidnapping any any other crimes involving a child or youth. Services include:

- Assessment of needs
- Assistance in making informed decisions
- Information about the criminal justice system (adult and juvenile), including assistance with needed follow-up
- Support at interviews, trial and sentencing
- Assistance in court preparation and informing victims of their rights in legal settings
- Monitoring of the case through the legal system
- Assistance with protection/no contact/anti-harassment orders
- Information about civil remedies

### **SPECIAL PROGRAM:**

Children's Response Center assists with King County Kids Court, an innovative court awareness program developed to help child victims of sexual abuse and their families involved in the criminal justice system. Child victims, ages 4 to 12, who face testifying in court attend this program. Parents and guardians are also encouraged to attend, and they meet separately for support and education geared to their specific concerns. Children learn about the legal process and come to view the courtroom as a safe and respectful place. Activities with a judge and prosecutor promote understanding of these important job roles and the court processes in general. Children also learn self-care and stress reduction strategies that carry into their everyday lives.

### **BILL OF RIGHTS:**

The needs of abuse victims and witnesses are recognized in the Child Victims' and Child Witnesses' Bill of Rights.<sup>1</sup> Children have the right to:

- Have explained in language easily understood by the child, all legal proceedings and/or police investigations in which the child may be involved.
- Be provided, whenever possible, with a secure waiting area during court proceedings, and to have an advocate or support person remain with the child prior to and during any court proceedings. Presently, only advocates from advocacy programs may attend interviews with child victims.
- Not have the names, addresses or photographs of the living child victim or witness disclosed by any law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office or state agency without the permission of the child victim, child witness, parents or legal guardians to anyone except another law enforcement agency, prosecutor, defense counsel or private governmental agency that provides services to the child victims or witness.
- Allow an advocate to make recommendations to the prosecuting attorney about the ability of the child to cooperate with prosecution and the potential effect of the proceedings on the child.
- Allow an advocate to provide information to the court concerning the child's ability to understand the nature of the court proceedings.
- Be provided with information or appropriate referrals to social service agencies to assist the child and/or the child's family with the emotional impact of the crime, the subsequent investigation and the judicial proceedings in which the child is involved.
- Allow an advocate to be present in the court while the child testifies in order to provide emotional support to the child.
- Provide information to the court as to the need for the presence of other supportive persons at the court proceedings while the child testifies in order to promote the child's feelings of security and safety.
- Allow law enforcement agencies the opportunity to enlist the assistance of other professional personnel such as child protection services, victim advocates or prosecutorial staff trained in the interviewing of the child victim.

*Children's Response Center is committed to providing services to all individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status or disability. Access and accommodations are provided to persons with disabilities and interpreters are available as needed.*

1. 1994RCW 7.69A.030