

DRAFT SOPB Recommendation on Public Records

The Sex Offender Policy Board was directed by the Legislature to review and make findings and recommendations regarding “disclosure to the public of information compiled and submitted for the purposes of sex offender and kidnapping offender registries that is currently held by public agencies, including the relationship between chapter 42.56 RCW and RCW 4.24.550.”

Following its review of this topic, the Policy Board makes the following findings:

- RCW 4.24.550 was enacted with the intent of, among other things, limiting the disclosure of information compiled and submitted for the sex offender registration and community notification;
- RCW 4.24.550 specifically limits the disclosure of information to relevant, necessary, and accurate information; and
- RCW 4.24.550 serves as an “other statute” that exempts information compiled and submitted for the sex offender registration and community notification from public disclosure under RCW 42.56.

The Policy Board makes the following recommendations to the Legislature:

- RCW 4.24.550 be amended to include the following sentence: *“Sex offender and kidnapping offender registration information is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW.”*
- RCW 42.56.130 be amended to include the following sentence: *“Information compiled and submitted for the purposes of sex offender and kidnapping offender registration pursuant to RCW 4.24.550 and 9A.44.130, or the statewide registered kidnapping and sex offender web site pursuant to RCW 4.24.550, regardless of whether the information is held by a law enforcement agency, the statewide unified sex offender notification and registration program under RCW 36.28A.040, the central registry of sex offenders and kidnapping offenders under RCW 43.43.540, or another public agency.”*