

WSU Contract Update

Objective #1

Review the social science, criminal justice and public policy research regarding risk assessments for sex and kidnapping offenders who are in the community, as well as the methods used for community notification risk level classification. In particular, please review the research related to the reassessment of an offender's risk level after some period of time in the community.

Section 1

- A. Review the existing reassessment protocols of the following eight (8) Washington counties – Cowlitz, Island, Lewis, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, and Yakima counties.
 - 1. What criteria used in these protocols are empirically validated or supported by the research for assessing an offender's risk after a period of time in the community?
 - 2. What criteria used in these protocols are not empirically validated or supported by the research?

- B. Review static and dynamic risk factors, including the factors set out in RCW 9A.44.142 (4)(b) and 9A.44.143 (5)(b), and report on which of these criteria are supported by the research for reassessment of risk.
 - 1. Are there any ways in which juveniles should be treated as adults? If not, please justify why the current methods are sufficient.
 - 2. In what way does gender play a role in the reassessment of risk?
 - 3. Discuss any ways that hands-on offenders are treated differently than those who do not have a history of hands-on offenses.
 - 4. In what ways might those with prior offenses as juveniles be assessed differently than those who do not have a history as a juvenile?
 - 5. Discuss what the literature says regarding how offenders with a Failure to Register should be reassessed.

- C. Does the research you have reviewed answer these questions about kidnapping offenders as well, or is it limited to sex offenders?
 - a. What literature exists regarding the reassessment or risk after a period of time in the community for kidnap offenders?

Section 2

What methods or tools should agencies be using to reassess risk after an offender has spent a period of time in the community?

- 1. Are there any ways in which the accuracy of the STATIC-99R might be compromised after an offender has been in the community for several years?
- 2. Which empirically validated tools or methods for assessing risk could be used to assess changes in an offender's dynamic risk after a period of time in the community?
- 3. Which empirically validated tools or methods for assessing risk of juveniles could be used to assess changes in a juvenile's dynamic risk after a period of time in the community?
- 4. What are best practices for addressing whether risk assessments/reassessments are completed on juvenile offenders who are in the community?

5. What training or other resources would agencies require in order to follow any recommendations regarding the assessment or reassessment of risk?

Objective #2

Review the social science, criminal justice and public policy research regarding sex and kidnapping offender registration and community notification requirements for juvenile offenders in general, as well as any differences relevant to policy makers between those who are under 14 years of age and the time of their offense and those who are 14 years of age or older.

Section 1

The Adam Walsh Act/SORNA does not require states to register juveniles who are under the age of 14 at the time they commit their sex offense. Washington on the other hand, requires all juveniles to register regardless of their age at the time of the offense. Washington also subjects moderate and high risk juvenile offenders (Level II and III) to community notification, including placement on the public sex offender web site.

- A. What does the current research say about the policies of requiring juveniles convicted of sex or kidnapping offenses to register as sex or kidnap offenders, and about community notification for moderate and high risk juvenile offenders?
 1. What benefits or consequences, for the public, might be caused by registration and community notification for juvenile offenders? Has this type of policy been shown to improve public safety?
 2. Please discuss any collateral consequences for offenders, victims, and the community, that may stem from juvenile registration and community notification.
 3. What are the trends or best practices in other states regarding sex offender registration and community notification for juvenile sex and kidnapping offenders?
- B. Does the research support treating juvenile offenders who are under the age of 14 differently than older youth who commit sex and kidnapping offenses?
 1. Discuss any ways that juveniles under the age of 14 should be treated differently than those who are 14 years of age, or older.
 2. Does registration and community notification for juvenile offenders who commit their offense under the age of 14 have significant public benefits or collateral consequences for offenders and the public? Do these policies improve community safety?
 3. What are the trends or best practices in other states regarding sex offender registration and community notification for juvenile sex and kidnapping offenders who are under 14 years of age at the time they commit their offense?
 4. Which states require registration and community notifications for juveniles? For those states that do, what criteria are used for determining which juveniles must register and also subject to community notification?