

## *DSHS SCTF in King County*

**The DSHS SCTF in Seattle is designed secure with access in and out strictly controlled. Movement is monitored by staff and electronics including a closed circuit TV system.**

**No participant may leave the facility without a DSHS staff member traveling with him to supervise and monitor his activities.**

**Participants cannot leave the facility without a pre-approved travel plan with a defined purpose which has been reviewed and authorized in advance of the scheduled travel.**

**DSHS staff who work at the SCTF in King County are well trained in incident response and emergency procedures.**

**The SCTF works in close cooperation with the law enforcement agencies, including the Seattle Police Department, to better address public safety.**

**This cooperation extends to SCTF staff training, joint exercises, procedure development, as well as weekly and daily communication updates of escorted travels and activities in the community.**

## *For more Information*

To learn more about the Special Commitment Center and the Secure Community Transition Facilities, visit the program's Web site at:

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/hrsa/scc>

Or write:

*Community Programs  
Special Commitment Center*

*Department of Social  
& Health Services*

P.O. Box 45322  
Olympia, WA 98504-5322

*DSHS Secure Community  
Transition Facility  
in King County*

132 South Spokane Street  
Seattle, Washington



**scc** Special Commitment Center

Washington State  
Department of Social and Health Services  
Special Commitment Center



*SECURE COMMUNITY  
TRANSITION FACILITY (SCTF)  
IN KING COUNTY*



**scc** Special Commitment Center

*Safety • Security • Treatment*

# DSHS Secure Community Transition Facility – Seattle

## Background

Washington State has a long history of leading the national effort to control and prevent sexual assault and to provide treatment for individuals who have been charged and convicted of sexual offenses.

Washingtonians have made clear their intent to improve public safety and continue the search for more effective ways of achieving it.

The Special Commitment Center (SCC) was established by the legislature in 1990 in response to horrific sex crimes committed by convicted sex predators. The Department of Social and Health Services was assigned the responsibility to establish and manage the SCC.

Under state law (chapter 71.09 RCW) the SCC serves as a secure mental health treatment program, not a criminal justice program. A civil court is the only entity that can commit predatory sex offenders to the SCC once they have completed their criminal court sentences.

The constitutionality of this approach was upheld by the United States Supreme Court (*Kansas v Hendricks*) in 1997.

## Facilities

The Special Commitment Center program has three residential facilities. McNeil Island is the location of the SCC's main institution and the program's Pierce County Secure Community Transition Facility (SCTF). The SCTF in King County is at 132 South Spokane Street in Seattle.

## Secure Community Transition Facility (SCTF)

State law and federal court rulings require “step-down” facilities for SCC residents who successfully complete the initial six phases of treatment.

Only a civil court can decide to transfer a resident from the SCC to a SCTF and set conditions for behavior and continued treatment.

The SCTF in King County has a dual mission to protect the safety of the community while providing for the treatment and transition of residents.

Emphasizing public safety, the SCTF provides sex offenders a program for successful community transition that recognizes the person's past mistakes, builds on progress and stresses the importance of personal behavior.

## Four Phase Program

Each SCTF resident participates in a four phase program.

### *I - Basics*

- Program Orientation
- Meeting Court Requirements
- Sex Offender Registration

### *II - Foundation*

- Establishing Social Supports
- Acquiring Employment
- Establishing Financial Responsibility

### *III - Economic Independence*

- Maintaining Personal Finances
- Identifying Residential Options
- Maintaining Employment

### *IV - Moving Out*

- Maintaining Healthy Lifestyle
- Maintaining Community Placement
- Maintaining Employment w/Reviews

Program participants learn to function successfully in society. SCTF staff provide the tools by working with the participant to develop customized community transition plans and provide assessment evaluations of life skills and individual case management. Residents use what they learn to manage risk factors while maximizing individual and public safety.

