

Facilities

The Special Commitment Center program has three residential facilities, the total confinement facility on McNeil Island, near Steilacoom, and two less restrictive alternative facilities, called secure community transition facilities (SCTFs), one on McNeil Island and the other in South Seattle.

Secure Community Transition Facility (SCTF)

State law and federal court rulings require community-based transition facilities for SCC residents who successfully respond to the initial five phases of treatment.

Only a civil court can decide to transfer a resident from the SCC total confinement facility to an SCTF. The court typically imposes specific conditions that include supervision by Department of Corrections staff and treatment by a Sex Offender Treatment Provider.

The mission of an SCTF is to protect the community and provide residents treatment and transition services. SCTF programs cooperate closely with local law enforcement agencies to support public safety.

The SCTFs provide sex offenders opportunities for successful community transition. These opportunities build on residents' active participation in treatment as residents develop the ability to reduce their risk of reoffense.

For more Information

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

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

Or write:

Special Commitment Center
Department of Social & Health
Services

P.O. Box 88450

Steilacoom, WA 98388-0646

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services



SPECIAL COMMITMENT CENTER PROGRAM

McNEIL ISLAND

HENRY RICHARDS, Ph.D., SUPERINTENDENT



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

scc Special Commitment Center



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

scc Special Commitment Center

Safety • Security • Treatment

DSHS SPECIAL COMMITMENT CENTER PROGRAM

Background

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

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

The Special Commitment Center (SCC) was established by the legislature in 1990 in response to sex crimes committed by convicted sex predators. The legislature assigned the Department of Social and Health Services 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 commits predatory sex offenders to the SCC once they have completed their criminal court sentences.

The constitutionality of these commitment laws has been upheld by a series of court decisions by the US Supreme Court and the Washington Supreme Court.

The SCC Treatment Program

The Special Commitment Center provides evaluation and treatment for individuals who have been civilly committed or referred by a court for potential commitment. Treatment services are provided in a secure residential environment. The SCC Treatment Program is housed on McNeil Island in a new state of the art facility.

The SCC's treatment program is based on a relapse prevention model using cognitive behavioral treatment techniques and interventions. The main goal of treatment is to reduce the likelihood of future sexual offenses through addressing modifiable risk factors such as anti-social life goals and deviant sexual interest. If a resident has significantly mitigated his risk, he may receive SCC support to petition the superior court for approval to transition back into the community. The court determines whether the resident continues to meet commitment criteria or is suitable for a less restrictive alternative outside SCC's total confinement facility. Residents who decline to participate in the treatment program, or who fail to progress in treatment sufficiently to mitigate their risk of reoffense, remain in the total confinement facility indefinitely.

Phase-based Program

SCC's treatment program is a phase-based program consisting of seven phases, six of which take place within the institution. The phases are:

- 1: Orientation and Evaluation
- 2: Treatment Readiness
- 3: Skill Acquisition
- 4: Skill Application
- 5: Skill Generalization
- 6: Discharge readiness
- 7: Aftercare

While undergoing treatment, residents are expected to take part in individual and group therapies, as well as many psycho-educational modules where specific knowledge and skills are taught.

Upon entering the treatment program, residents undergo a comprehensive assessment, which includes the evaluation of modifiable risk factors. Results of this assessment contribute to development of an Individualized Treatment Plan (ITP), which identifies the specific treatment targets to be addressed in all components of treatment. SCC provides comprehensive treatment that includes sex offender specific treatment programming and services to meet medical, psychiatric, chemical dependency, educational, vocational, religious, cultural, and recreation needs.