



DOC Supervision of Domestic Violence in Criminal Sentencing

Report to the Legislature
As required by 2024 SHB 2048

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Background

Current law ([RCW 9.94A.501](#)) requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to supervise individuals in certain instances. In all other instances, the DOC is not authorized to supervise an individual unless they meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in [RCW 9.94A.501](#). Specifically, [RCW 9.94A.501 \(6\)](#) states “The department is not authorized to, and may not, supervise any offender sentenced to a term of community custody or any probationer unless the offender or probationer is one for whom supervision is required under this section or [*RCW 9.94A.5011.](#)”

Substitute House Bill 2048 (SHB 2048) took effect on June 6, 2024, and made changes to this statute, removing the requirement that domestic violence offenses be pleaded and proven to qualify for supervision. Prior to the changes made in 2024, the Department was required to supervise certain domestic violence convictions only when they had been pleaded and proven. The offense must have been documented as pleaded and proven in the Judgment and Sentence or documented as pleaded and proven in the Judicial Access Browser System/Judicial Information System (JABS/JIS) and documented by our Criminal Conviction Record (CCR) Unit. In instances where the offense was not clearly documented as pleaded and proven, the Department could not include it as a qualifying offense, as it did not meet the requirements under the law.

Each individual sentenced to community custody undergoes a manual screening process by DOC Records staff, using a Supervision Eligibility Screening Tool. This tool is kept up to date based on current law. If an individual meets eligibility criteria under the law, the Department supervises the individual. If the individual does not meet eligibility criteria under the law, the Department discontinues supervision, and the Court is notified that DOC has closed interest in the case.

The Department of Corrections acknowledges how beneficial community supervision is and how it supports our mission of improving public safety by positively changing lives. As such, the Community Corrections Division supervises every individual that qualifies under the law.

Legislative Directive

“The department of corrections shall conduct an internal audit and report on its supervisory obligations under RCW 9.94A.501 (1)(b) and (4)(e). The audit and report shall, for the period identified in subsection (2) of this section: (a) Identify the number of individuals for whom a Washington court ordered supervision by the department under RCW 9.94A.501(1)(b) and (4)(e); (b) identify the number of individuals within the number identified in (a) of this subsection for whom supervision by the department was ordered but supervision did not occur or has not occurred; and (c) provide the reason or reasons why the department did not undertake supervision of an individual if the numbers identified in (a) and (b) of this subsection are not the same.

(2) The audit and report required by this section must cover the period between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2024.

(3) The department shall report the findings of its audit to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2024. (4) This section expires December 31, 2024.”

Substitute House Bill [2048](#) (2024)

DOC Supervision Eligibility Screening Data

Please note that the majority of the data included in this report is based on DOC’s supervisory obligations under RCW 9.94A.501 as written prior to June 6, 2024. The majority of the audit period was prior to the statutory supervision changes taking effect. The table below includes DOC Supervision Eligibility Screening Data from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024.

Number of Individuals for whom a Washington court ordered supervision by DOC for a DV related offense		3,975
Total number of individuals for whom DOC determined ineligible for supervision		
257 individuals	16 individuals	2 individuals
DOC did not supervise these individuals for a gross misdemeanor conviction as they did not have a documented pleaded and proven finding in the Judgment and Sentence or were not documented as pleaded and proven in the Judicial Access Browser System/Judicial Information System (JABS/JIS).	DOC did not supervise these individuals for a felony conviction as they did not have a documented pleaded and proven finding in the Judgment and Sentence or were not documented as pleaded and proven in the Judicial Access Browser System/Judicial Information System (JABS/JIS).	DOC did not supervise these individuals for a gross misdemeanor and felony conviction as they did not have a documented pleaded and proven finding in the Judgment and Sentence or were not documented as pleaded and proven in the Judicial Access Browser System/Judicial Information System (JABS/JIS).