

## COUNTY OF ORIGIN

### COUNTY OF ORIGIN DETERMINATION

Individuals who require an approved release address must transfer from confinement to their county of origin, unless an exception is approved per RCW 72.09.270(8)(a). The county of origin is the county of the individual's first felony conviction, including a juvenile conviction, in Washington State. Vacated convictions will not be considered when determining the county of origin.

The case manager will determine the county of origin using available criminal history and court correspondence. The county of origin will be documented in the individual's electronic file.

### EXCEPTIONS TO RELEASE OUTSIDE THE COUNTY OF ORIGIN

Unless the individual has a qualified sponsor (e.g., family member, organization), alternative release plans will be explored by Section, then Region, and then Statewide. There must be no known victim safety concerns or Judgement and Sentence prohibitions in the proposed alternate county of release.

The case manager will document release planning efforts as a Chronological Event (chrono) in the electronic file.

#### **Exception 1: Individual has family or other sponsoring person(s) or organization(s) who will provide support outside the county of origin**

Individual has a verified release plan outside the county of origin that includes sustainable, prosocial, and tangible support (e.g., employment, training, transportation) from a sponsor(s) to assist with successful reentry. There must be no known victim safety concerns in the proposed alternate county of release.

An organization who only provides housing does not qualify as a sponsor, unless the individual has a family member or person able to provide other tangible support/resources. Individuals must be housed in close proximity to the supporting family member or person.

The case manager does not have to consider resources in the county of origin first if the individual has a verified release plan that includes a qualified sponsor(s).

#### **Exception 2: Court-ordered condition of the Judgment and Sentence prohibits return to the county of origin**

The Judgement and Sentence prohibits the individual from returning to the county of origin.

The case manager will document specific information related to the prohibition in the Comments section of the release plan and as a chrono in the electronic file.

#### **Exception 3: Victim safety concerns exist in the county of origin that cannot be mitigated**

There are victim safety concerns, as indicated in the Community Concerns field in the electronic file, in the county of origin that cannot be mitigated, as determined by the Community Victim Liaison in consultation with the Victim Services Program Manager.

The case manager will consult with the assigned Community Victim Liaison, as appropriate, and consider the following:

- Likelihood that harm to specific persons and/or new criminal offenses will occur if released to the county of origin, based on previous behavior patterns or current behavior/statements.
- Information indicating that increased geographic separation between the individual and the person(s) targeted will reduce the risk of harm and/or new criminal offenses.
- Strategies/resources available to reduce specific risks in the county of origin (e.g., geographic restrictions, electronic monitoring, daily reporting, imposed conditions, treatment or other programming, surveillance).

The assigned Community Victim Liaison will consult the Victim Services Program Manager and document the decision in the electronic file.

**Exception 4: Negative influences on the individual in the county of origin**

Negative influences in the county of origin (e.g., gang membership, crime organizations to which the individual belonged, abusive relationships that had an influence on criminality, high-profile cases) that would impact the individual’s ability to establish and maintain lasting pro-social relationships.

- Releasing homeless may be considered a significant negative influence if all appropriate housing resources in the county of origin have been exhausted (e.g., firm refusal by housing vendor, no housing options) by the individual and case manager, including consultation with the Regional Housing Specialist. A lack of vacancy is not considered an exhausted resource.

Documentation will be obtained from law enforcement agencies, criminal histories, interviews, and mental health evaluations.

**AUTHORIZATION FOR COUNTY OF ORIGIN EXCEPTIONS**

The release plan will be forwarded to the Superintendent, Work/Training Release Administrator, Reentry Senior Administrator or their designee for review and approval to submit outside the county of origin.

The decision and justification will be documented in the Comments section of the release plan.

If the Field Administrator approves the release plan, the Field Administrator will notify the Law and Justice Council in the county of release for approved exceptions.

**RETAKE TO COUNTY OF ORIGIN**

Individuals who released outside the county of origin may be returned to the county of origin if they have lost sponsorship resulting in prolonged homelessness without any foreseeable change in status. For approved exceptions, the Field Administrator in the county of release will notify the Law and Justice Council.