

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Working Together for Safe Communities

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What you need to know about the

PARENTING SENTENCING ALTERNATIVE

THE PARENTING SENTENCING ALTERNATIVE IS A POSITIVE SOLUTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Research shows children of incarcerated parents are significantly more likely to end up in the criminal justice system themselves. The goal of this program is to help interrupt the cycle of intergenerational incarceration.



Parenting Sentencing Alternative (PSA) – Substitute Senate Bill 6639

WHAT IS THE PARENTING SENTENCING ALTERNATIVE (PSA)?

The Washington Legislature in 2010 approved SSB 6639, a bill supported by the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), which makes some nonviolent offenders who have minor children eligible for supervision and treatment in lieu of prison. This bill also created an alternative for those already incarcerated who have minor aged children. The law became effective on June 10, 2010.



THERE ARE TWO SENTENCING OPTIONS – Court and Prison

The Court Option: Family Offender Sentencing Alternative (FOSA). FOSA allows judges to waive a sentence that is at the high end of the standard sentence range for the current offense that is greater than one year, and impose 12 months of community supervision along with the conditions for treatment and programming for eligible inmates facing a prison sentence. Inmates will be supervised by a Community Corrections Officer who is responsible for a caseload of inmates who are sentenced under FOSA.

The Prison Option: Community Parenting Alternative (CPA). The Parenting Sentencing Alternative allowed the Department to create a prison alternative referred to as the Community Parenting Alternative, or CPA. With this option, DOC may transfer the inmate to the community under electronic monitoring to serve up to the last 12 months of his/her sentence. Inmates will be monitored by a Community Corrections Officer which is responsible for approval of community activities, employment and treatment programs while participating in the alternative. These cases will be screened for eligibility by DOC/DSHS with input from community stakeholders. Final Approval will be granted by the DOC Secretary.

CAN A FOSA OR CPA OFFENDER BE REVOKED?

For FOSA, DOC will provide quarterly progress reports to the court regarding the offender's progress in programming, treatment and other supervision requirements. Judges have the authority to require the inmate appear in court to evaluate progress and can modify conditions or impose confinement within the standard range of the current offense. If FOSA is revoked by the court, the time spent in the community will not be credited toward the confinement time.

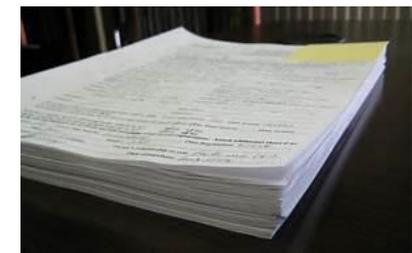
For CPA, DOC hearings officers will conduct an administrative hearing to adjudicate infraction behavior that occurs. Inmates may be returned to prison to complete their sentence if found guilty. CPA inmates may be returned to prison due to medical circumstances and/or issues that place the child, community or program at risk.

WHAT HELPS DETERMINE IF FOSA OR CPA IS APPROPRIATE?

Judges may require that DOC complete a risk assessment report and/or chemical dependency screening prior sentencing. As part of the risk assessment, Children's Administration will inform the court if the agency has an open child welfare case or if there were prior substantiated referrals of abuse or neglect involving the inmate. Children's Administration will provide a report to the court within seven business days.



DOC utilizes a multidisciplinary screening committee consisting of child welfare experts and others who work with offenders in transition. This committee screens and approves applicants for transfer from prison onto electronic monitoring in order to be home to parent their children. Children's Administration will provide a report to the court within seven business days.



Please see the following link for additional criteria:
<http://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/justice/sentencing/community-parenting.htm>