

FAQs – Draft for Website

Below consists of a draft of Frequently Asked Questions and proposed responses for discussion at the 3/23/23 full board meeting.

Question	Proposed Response
When did the SOPB get established?	<p>The Sex Offender Policy Board is formed pursuant to ESSB 6596, passed by the Washington State Legislature and effective July 1, 2008.</p> <p>Per ESSB 5891, the Sex Offender Policy Board was moved to the Office of Financial Management, under the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, effective July 1, 2011.</p>
What is the purpose of the SOPB?	<p>The Sex Offender Policy Board duties are as follows:</p> <p>At such time as the Governor or a legislative committee of jurisdiction may request, the Sex Offender Policy Board may be convened to:</p> <p>(1) Undertake projects to assist policymakers in making informed judgments about issues relating to sex offender policy.</p> <p>(2) Conduct case reviews on sex offenses as needed to understand performance of the sex offender prevention and response systems; or as requested by the governor or the legislative committee of jurisdiction. Reviews shall be conducted in a manner which protects the right to a fair trial.</p>
Can the SOPB decide what issues to take up or give itself assignments?	<p>No, the SOPB cannot decide what issues it takes up or what project(s) are assigned. The Board serves to advise the Governor and/or the Legislature and must be convened, by either the Governor or Legislature, on a particular assignment in order to begin meeting and working.</p>
Does the SOPB supervise individuals who have been convicted of a sexual offense?	<p>No, the SOPB does not supervise or manage any individuals, regardless of whether they have been convicted of a sexual offense.</p> <p>For more information about supervision of individuals convicted of an offense, please see the Department of Corrections website: [link].</p>
Does the SOPB provide, or oversee, treatment for individuals who have been convicted of a sexual offense?	<p>No, the SOPB does not provide, or oversee, treatment for any individuals convicted of a sexual offense. Treatment and treatment requirements are individualized which means they are based on the individual's needs.</p> <p>For more information regarding treatment, please see the Washington Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse: [link]</p>
What is the SOPB working on?	<p>You can find information about the current project(s) and work of the SOPB on our website here.</p>
When does the SOPB meet?	<p>The SOPB meets when it is convened on a project or assignment from the Legislature and/or Governor. Meeting dates, times and frequency are determined based on the current assignment. You can find a list of past and upcoming meetings here.</p>
Who can attend the SOPB meetings?	<p>The SOPB meetings are open to the public and anyone who is interested in attending is welcome. Currently, all SOPB meetings are held virtually via zoom. Additional information regarding meeting dates, materials, and accessing meeting login information can be found here.</p>

<p>Will the SOPB meetings have an in-person option?</p>	<p>Yes, the SOPB meetings will ultimately have an in-person option after the federal state of emergency has been listed. The option to attend remotely via zoom will continue when in-person meeting options begin. Please continue to check our website here for more information regarding meetings.</p>
<p>I have feedback I would like to provide. Am I allowed to address the board?</p>	<p>Yes, the board welcomes feedback from the public. This can be done in two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1) You can email your feedback to SOPB@ofm.wa.gov. This feedback will be shared at the next full board meeting during the “for the good of the order” section of the meeting. - 2) You can address the board live at a full board meeting during the “for the good of the order section” of the meeting. This is the opportunity for public comment and typically occurs at the end of the Board meeting. <p>Note: You can contact the SOPB with any questions, comments, or concerns via our email at sopb@ofm.wa.gov or phone at 360-995-3847.</p>