

SGC Re-ranking Subcommittees Members' Responsibilities

Purpose: Review felony offenses included within each seriousness level of the adult felony sentencing grid and make recommendations for re-ranking those offenses on a modified form of the proposed sentencing grid that was considered by the Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force.

Final Report – December 1, 2023: The SGC shall submit a final report by December 1, 2023.

Subcommittee members have the following responsibilities:

- a) **Focus on the Overall Good of All the Interests Represented:** While members are to represent the points of view of their interest area, members are also asked to focus on the overall good of all the interests represented on the subcommittee, not just the perspectives of individual interest areas.
- b) **Respectful of the Diversity of Views:** To enhance the possibility of constructive discussions and dialogue as members educate themselves on the issues and engage in consensus building, members agree to be respectful of the diversity of views on the subcommittees. Members agree to listen openly to all points of view on issues and alternatives and seek to identify areas of agreement, as well as reasons for different points of view. Members agree to avoid personal attacks both at the table and away from the table.
- c) **Work Cooperatively and Creatively to Seek Areas of Agreement:** Members will work cooperatively with each other to accomplish the purposes of the subcommittees, and acknowledge that all participants bring legitimate purposes, goals, concerns, and interests—irrespective of whether they agree with them.
- d) **Focus on the Subject at Hand:** Members agree to focus on the topic of discussion, share discussion time, avoid interrupting, respect time constraints, keep reactions and responses from being personal, and avoid side conversations.
- e) **Abide by Discussion Ground Rules:**

Be Respectful

- One person speaks at a time; listen when others are speaking, avoid interrupting and side conversations.
- Keep comments brief so everyone gets a chance to share their thoughts. Avoid dominating the discussion.
- Hear and respect all opinions.
- Silence cell phones and refrain for using laptops during the meeting, except to take notes.

Be Constructive

- Acknowledge that all participants bring with them legitimate purposes, goals, concerns and interests, whether or not you are in agreement with them.

Openly Explore Issues

- Act in “good faith,” seeking to resolve conflicts and identify solutions. Come with the sense that this is a gathering of bright minds working toward a common goal.
- State concerns and interests clearly, listen carefully to and assume the best in others. Leave negative assumptions and attitudes at the door.

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- Share comments that are solution focused, rather than repeating past discussions.
- It is OK to disagree; it is not OK to make personal attacks or slanderous statements.
- Minimize the use of jargon and acronyms, define and explain when used.
- Work towards consensus. Be willing to compromise.
- Ask for clarification when uncertain of what another person is saying. Ask questions rather than make assumptions.