

**RCW 9.94A.701 Community custody—Offenders sentenced to the custody of the department. (Effective until January 1, 2026.)** (1) If an offender is sentenced to the custody of the department for one of the following crimes, the court shall, in addition to the other terms of the sentence, sentence the offender to community custody for three years:

(a) A sex offense not sentenced under RCW 9.94A.507; or

(b) A serious violent offense.

(2) A court shall, in addition to the other terms of the sentence, sentence an offender to community custody for eighteen months when the court sentences the person to the custody of the department for a violent offense that is not considered a serious violent offense.

(3) A court shall, in addition to the other terms of the sentence, sentence an offender to community custody for one year when the court sentences the person to the custody of the department for:

(a) Any crime against persons under RCW 9.94A.411(2);

(b) An offense involving the unlawful possession of a firearm under RCW 9.41.040, where the offender is a criminal street gang member or associate;

(c) A felony offense under chapter 69.50 or 69.52 RCW, committed on or after July 1, 2000; or

(d) A felony violation of RCW 9A.44.132(1) (failure to register) that is the offender's first violation for a felony failure to register.

(4) If an offender is sentenced under the drug offender sentencing alternative, the court shall impose community custody as provided in RCW 9.94A.660.

(5) If an offender is sentenced under the special sex offender sentencing alternative, the court shall impose community custody as provided in RCW 9.94A.670.

(6) If an offender is sentenced to a work ethic camp, the court shall impose community custody as provided in RCW 9.94A.690.

(7) If an offender is sentenced under the parenting sentencing alternative, the court shall impose a term of community custody as provided in RCW 9.94A.655.

(8) If the offender is sentenced under the mental health sentencing alternative, the court shall impose a term of community custody as provided in RCW 9.94A.695.

(9) If a sex offender is sentenced as a nonpersistent offender pursuant to RCW 9.94A.507, the court shall impose community custody as provided in that section.

(10) The term of community custody specified by this section shall be reduced by the court whenever an offender's standard range term of confinement in combination with the term of community custody exceeds the statutory maximum for the crime as provided in RCW 9A.20.021. [2021 c 242 s 6. Prior: 2010 c 267 s 11; 2010 c 224 s 5; 2009 c 375 s 5; 2009 c 28 s 10; 2008 c 231 s 7.]

**Applicability—2021 c 242:** See note following RCW 9.94A.695.

**Application—2010 c 267:** See note following RCW 9A.44.128.

**Application—2009 c 375:** See note following RCW 9.94A.501.

**Effective date—2009 c 28:** See note following RCW 2.24.040.

**Intent—2008 c 231:** "The existing sentencing reform act contains numerous provisions for supervision of different types of offenders. This duplication has caused great confusion for judges, lawyers, offenders, and the department of corrections, and often results in inaccurate sentences. The clarifications in this act are intended to support continued discussions by the sentencing guidelines commission with the courts and the criminal justice community to identify and propose policy changes that will further simplify and improve the sentencing reform act relating to the supervision of offenders. The sentencing guidelines commission shall submit policy change proposals to the legislature on or before December 1, 2008.

Sections 7 through 58 of this act are intended to simplify the supervision provisions of the sentencing reform act and increase the uniformity of its application. These sections are not intended to either increase or decrease the authority of sentencing courts or the department relating to supervision, except for those provisions instructing the court to apply the provisions of the current community custody law to offenders sentenced after July 1, 2009, but who committed their crime prior to August 1, 2009, to the extent that such application is constitutionally permissible.

This will effect a change for offenders who committed their crimes prior to the offender accountability act, chapter 196, Laws of 1999. These offenders will be ordered to a term of community custody rather than community placement or community supervision. To the extent constitutionally permissible, the terms of the offender's supervision will be as provided in current law. With the exception of this change, the legislature does not intend to make, and no provision of sections 7 through 58 of this act may be construed as making, a substantive change to the supervision provisions of the sentencing reform act." [2009 c 375 s 10; 2008 c 231 s 6.]

**Application—2008 c 231 ss 6-58:** "(1) Sections 6 through 58 of this act apply to all sentences imposed or reimposed on or after August 1, 2009, for any crime committed on or after August 1, 2009.

(2) Sections 6 through 58 of this act also apply to all sentences imposed or reimposed on or after August 1, 2009, for crimes committed prior to August 1, 2009, to the extent that such application is constitutionally permissible.

(3) To the extent that application of sections 6 through 58 of this act is not constitutionally permissible with respect to any offender, the sentence for such offender shall be governed by the law as it existed before August 1, 2009, or on such prior date as may be constitutionally required, notwithstanding any amendment or repeal of provisions of such law.

(4) If application of sections 6 through 58 of this act is not constitutionally permissible with respect to any offender, the judgment and sentence shall specify the particular sentencing provisions that will not apply to such offender. Whenever practical, the judgment and sentence shall use the terminology set out in this act.

(5) The sentencing guidelines commission shall prepare a summary of the circumstances under which application of sections 6 through 58 of this act is not constitutionally permissible. The summary should include recommendations of conditions that could be included in judgments and sentences in order to prevent unconstitutional

application of the act. This summary shall be incorporated into the *Adult Sentencing Guidelines Manual*.

(6) Sections 6 through 58 of this act shall not affect the enforcement of any sentence that was imposed prior to August 1, 2009, unless the offender is resentenced after that date." [2008 c 231 s 55.]

**Application of repealers—2008 c 231 s 57:** "The repealers in section 57 of this act shall not affect the validity of any sentence that was imposed prior to August 1, 2009, or the authority of the department of corrections to supervise any offender pursuant to such sentence." [2008 c 231 s 58.]

**Effective date—2008 c 231 ss 6-60:** "Sections 6 through 60 of this act take effect August 1, 2009." [2008 c 231 s 61.]

**Severability—2008 c 231:** See note following RCW 9.94A.500.

**RCW 9.94A.701 Community custody—Offenders sentenced to the custody of the department. (Effective January 1, 2026.)** (1) If an offender is sentenced to the custody of the department for one of the following crimes, the court shall, in addition to the other terms of the sentence, sentence the offender to community custody for three years:

(a) A sex offense not sentenced under RCW 9.94A.507; or

(b) A serious violent offense.

(2) A court shall, in addition to the other terms of the sentence, sentence an offender to community custody for 18 months when the court sentences the person to the custody of the department for a violent offense that is not considered a serious violent offense.

(3) A court shall, in addition to the other terms of the sentence, sentence an offender to community custody for one year when the court sentences the person to the custody of the department for:

(a) Any crime against persons under RCW 9.94A.411(2);

(b) An offense involving the unlawful possession of a firearm under RCW 9.41.040, where the offender is a criminal street gang member or associate;

(c) A felony offense under chapter 69.50 or 69.52 RCW, committed on or after July 1, 2000; or

(d) A felony violation of RCW 9A.44.132(1) (failure to register) that is the offender's first violation for a felony failure to register.

(4) If an offender is sentenced under the drug offender sentencing alternative, the court shall impose community custody as provided in:

(a) RCW 9.94A.660 and 9.94A.662 for a prison-based drug offender sentencing alternative;

(b) RCW 9.94A.660 and 9.94A.664 for a residential-based drug offender sentencing alternative;

(c) RCW 9.94A.662 and 9.94A.661(6) for a prison-based drug offender sentencing alternative for driving under the influence; and

(d) RCW 9.94A.661 (5) and (6) for a residential-based drug offender sentencing alternative for driving under the influence.

(5) If an offender is sentenced under the special sex offender sentencing alternative, the court shall impose community custody as provided in RCW 9.94A.670.

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(9) If a sex offender is sentenced as a nonpersistent offender pursuant to RCW 9.94A.507, the court shall impose community custody as provided in that section.

(10) The term of community custody specified by this section shall be reduced by the court whenever an offender's standard sentence range term of confinement in combination with the term of community custody exceeds the statutory maximum for the crime as provided in RCW 9A.20.021. [2024 c 306 s 10; 2021 c 242 s 6. Prior: 2010 c 267 s 11; 2010 c 224 s 5; 2009 c 375 s 5; 2009 c 28 s 10; 2008 c 231 s 7.]

**Effective date—2024 c 306:** See note following RCW 9.94A.661.

**Applicability—2021 c 242:** See note following RCW 9.94A.695.

**Application—2010 c 267:** See note following RCW 9A.44.128.

**Application—2009 c 375:** See note following RCW 9.94A.501.

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**Intent—2008 c 231:** "The existing sentencing reform act contains numerous provisions for supervision of different types of offenders. This duplication has caused great confusion for judges, lawyers, offenders, and the department of corrections, and often results in inaccurate sentences. The clarifications in this act are intended to support continued discussions by the sentencing guidelines commission with the courts and the criminal justice community to identify and propose policy changes that will further simplify and improve the sentencing reform act relating to the supervision of offenders. The sentencing guidelines commission shall submit policy change proposals to the legislature on or before December 1, 2008.

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supervision will be as provided in current law. With the exception of this change, the legislature does not intend to make, and no provision of sections 7 through 58 of this act may be construed as making, a substantive change to the supervision provisions of the sentencing reform act." [2009 c 375 s 10; 2008 c 231 s 6.]

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**Application of repealers—2008 c 231 s 57:** "The repealers in section 57 of this act shall not affect the validity of any sentence that was imposed prior to August 1, 2009, or the authority of the department of corrections to supervise any offender pursuant to such sentence." [2008 c 231 s 58.]

**Effective date—2008 c 231 ss 6-60:** "Sections 6 through 60 of this act take effect August 1, 2009." [2008 c 231 s 61.]

**Severability—2008 c 231:** See note following RCW 9.94A.500.