

Supervised Release Program



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

Wis. Stat. ch. 980

State law allows for the involuntary (civil) commitment of individuals with a history of sexual offenses upon completion of their prison sentence.

Wis. Stat. ch. 980 (Commitment Process)

Evaluation

DOC evaluation team completes a risk assessment to determine whether the individual is more likely than not to commit another sexual violent crime.

Petition

County district attorney or Department of Justice files a petition alleging a person completing their prison sentence is a sexually violent person.

Probable Cause Hearing

Court holds a hearing to determine whether there is probable cause to believe the person named in the petition is a sexually violent person.

Trial

Court or jury determines the person who is subject to the petition is a sexually violent person.

Commitment

Person is committed to the Department of Health Services for care and treatment.

Commitment Criteria

- * Person has been convicted of a sexually violent offense.
- * Person has a mental disorder that predisposes the person to acts of sexual violence.
- * Person is more likely than not to commit another violent sexual offense.

Wis. Stat. ch. 980

- * Committed individuals are housed at the Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center in Mauston.
- * When the individual reaches the point in their treatment and rehabilitation that a court determines it is appropriate for them to reside in the community, state law provides two options:
 - Supervised release.
 - Direct discharge from the facility with no supervision.

Supervised Release vs. Direct Discharge

Research suggests release with conditions, supervision, and supports is a safer way for patients to reintegrate into the community.

Responsibility of the Department of Health Services

- * Provide care and treatment until the person no longer meets the criteria for involuntary (civil) commitment.
- * Prepare supervised release plan when ordered by a court.
- * Manage all individuals on supervised release in a manner that upholds the court order, maintains community safety, and supports the client in his or her transition back to community living.

Supervised Release Residence Selection

2017 Wisconsin Act 184

- * Requires the client to return to his county of residence
- * Gives county of residence control over the residence search and location process.
- * Previous law (2015 Wisconsin Act 156) directed DHS to identify appropriate residential option and allowed for courts to find “good cause” to place a client into another county.

County's Responsibility under law

- * The court orders the county of the person's residence to prepare a report.
- * Create a temporary committee to prepare the report for the county.
- * In the report, the county shall identify an appropriate residential option in that county while the person is on supervised release.

County Report

- * Court orders the county of residence to prepare a report.
- * This report:
 1. Is submitted to DHS.
 2. Must identify a residence for the client.
 3. Must demonstrate:
 - The landlord has been contacted.
 - The landlord has committed to enter into a lease.
 4. Must contain the law enforcement report if one was created.

DHS' Role under law

- * Determine county of residence.
- * Determine city, village, or town of residence, if required.
- * Determine the identity and location of known and registered victims within 30 days of the court order.
- * Serve on temporary committee.
- * Consult with county while county prepares the report.

After Submission of Report

- * DHS prepares supervised release plan with residential option identified by the county.
 - Filed within 30 days of county report
 - Up to 30-day extension for good cause
- * Court reviews plan and approves or denies.
- * If residential option is inadequate, the court will order the county to identify and arrange to lease another residential option.

Brian Threlkeld

Convictions:

- * 948.02(2) – Second Degree Sexual Assault (2000)
- * Committed to Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center on March 26, 2009

Brian Threlkeld

- * The court ordered Kenosha County to identify a residence and for DHS to develop a supervised release plan on 02/17/2020
- * The supervised release plan was submitted to the court on 09/25/2025
- * The court approved the plan and issued order on 10/13/2025
- * The court ordered the placement to occur on or before 11/01/2025

Sebastian Parker

Convictions:

- * 948.03(2)(b) – Child Abuse; Intentionally Cause Harm [2 counts] (2007)
- * 940.225(3m) – Fourth Degree Sexual Assault [2 counts] (2007)
- * Committed to Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center on October 26, 2015

Sebastian Parker

- * The court ordered Kenosha County to identify a residence and for DHS to develop a supervised release plan on 03/18/2022
- * The supervised release plan was submitted to the court on 09/26/2025
- * The court approved the plan and issued order on 10/09/2025
- * The court ordered the placement to occur on or before 11/01/2025

Supervised Release Principles

- * Community safety
- * Client centered
- * Evidence-based practices
- * Reintegration focus
- * Team-based approach

Supervised Release Team

This team is responsible for overseeing the client in the community.

- * Department of Corrections probation and parole agent
- * Sex offender treatment provider
- * Case manager
- * Department of Health Services Contract Specialist

Safety Measures

- * Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry Program
- * GPS monitoring bracelet
- * Supervised release rules
- * Chaperoned Monitoring
- * Searches
- * Polygraph testing
- * Announced and unannounced visits to the residence
- * Adjustments to treatment/supervision
- * Revocation

First-Year Monitoring

- * The client can't exit the residence without having a monitor present.
- * Monitor is a contracted staff providing in-person monitoring (supervision) of the client.
- * This monitoring is direct supervision: the client is within sight, sound, and physical access of the monitor.
- * Monitors may be present when visits occur in the residence.

Home Visits

- * Monitors check the client's home at all hours of the day and night.
- * These checks are done at scheduled and unscheduled times.

Supervised Release Rules

- * There are more than 30 rules for clients to follow.
- * These rules are approved by the court as part of the supervised release plan.
- * Violations may result in the revocation of the client's supervised release.
- * The client receives more privileges after the first year if they demonstrate the willingness to follow the rules.

Examples of Activities

- * Employment
- * Exercise
- * Home maintenance (lawn mowing and snow removal)
- * Medical appointments
- * Religious or spiritual services

Examples of Activities

- * Education
- * Sex offender treatment
- * Shopping for daily needs (groceries, clothing, etc.)
- * Volunteer work
- * Mental health treatment

Costs of Living

- * Clients must disclose income sources to the Department of Health Services.
- * Employment is an expectation / referrals to assist with obtaining employment.
- * Clients must contribute to their cost of living as they are able to do so.
- * In many cases, the Department of Health Services covers the majority of the client's cost of living.

Statistics

(As of September 1, 2025)

62

Clients
currently
placed
in the
community

14

Clients
awaiting to
be placed
in the
community

364

Clients
placed in
the history
of the
program

3

Clients
convicted
of new sex
crimes

DHS Contacts

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Resources

* Supervised Release Program website:

<https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/sr>