



Seattle Police Department Policy Manual



15.290 – Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution (SOAP)

Original Effective Date: 11/21/2007

Revised Effective Date: 07/01/2025

This policy applies to sworn employees arresting subject(s) who have a SOAP Order and have been arrested in a SOAP Zone.

15.290-POL-1 SOAP Orders

1. Definitions

SOAP: Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution

SOAP Order: a court order issued under SMC 12A.11 that specifically orders, as a condition of pretrial release and/or condition of sentence, that a subject stay out of one or more SOAP zones; prohibit the subject of the order from frequenting areas of significant prostitution activity and/or criminal activity with a nexus to prostitution or are conditions of community custody.

SOAP Zone: a zone established under SMC 12A.11 due to a high level of illegal prostitution in that area and/or criminal activity with a nexus to prostitution as identified in [SMC 12A.11.020\(B\)](#).

2. Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution (SOAP) – General

A Seattle Municipal Court (SMC) judge may issue a SOAP Order to anyone charged with, or convicted of, any violation of prostitution-related offenses occurring in a SOAP Zone, either as a condition of pretrial release or as a condition of sentence.

When a subject is convicted of a prostitution-related offense, they may be placed on SOAP probation (see manual section 15.310 – Prostitution-Related Offenses). The probationer is restricted from entering certain geographic areas that have been identified as areas of high prostitution activity. These restrictions are generally in effect between 1100 and 0600 hrs. At the discretion of the courts, certain areas may be added or deleted, and individual SOAP Orders may contain modifications.

SMC issues SOAP Orders prohibiting certain offenders from entering restricted areas (SOAP Zones). The SOAP Order will indicate which SOAP Zone the offender is restricted from entering.

Seattle Police Department Policy Manual

The SOAP Order may be in effect for the duration of the court's jurisdiction, or until trial, if the Order was issued as a condition of release from custody.

If a sworn employee has probable cause to believe that a subject has a SOAP Order issued under SMC 12A.11, and willful violation of that Order is occurring in the sworn employee's presence, the sworn employee may arrest that person without a warrant.

3. Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution (SOAP) – Exceptions

SOAP Orders may contain exceptions that permit an offender access to a restricted zone. Exceptions to the SOAP Order include travel to and from and/or remaining in the following locations between 0600 to 1800 hrs. (unless otherwise marked):

- Place of residence
- Court/government offices (while open to the public)
- Social services provider or treatment center
- Place of employment
- School
- Medical services
- Transiting through a SOAP Zone on public transportation if the person does not enter or exit the public transportation in the SOAP Zone.
- Participating in a scheduled court hearing or attending a scheduled meeting with legal counsel

Prior to making contact, sworn employees must observe the offender for a period of time so they can articulate how the offender is not actively moving to and from a particular location. These observations and any statements made by the offender must be included in the narrative of the report.

4. Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution (SOAP) – Juveniles

No person under the age of 18 may be arrested or charged for prostitution loitering (see manual section [15.310 – Prostitution-Related Offenses](#)).

15.290-POL-2 SOAP Order Information and Enforcement

1. SOAP Order Information

SOAP Order information will be entered by the issuing court and accessible electronically through WACIC. That file will provide the following information:

Seattle Police Department Policy Manual

- Existence of a SOAP Order
- Issuing court & case number
- Original SPD Report Number
- Applicable Precinct and restricted SOAP Zone
- Effective date & expiration date
- The confirmation phone number (SPD Data Center)

2. Sworn Employees Verify SOAP Orders Prior to Arrest

Sworn employees will verify a SOAP Order electronically or through Communications prior to arresting a subject for violating the Order.

Sworn employees may verify the existence of a specific SOAP Order and its terms by requesting that information from Data or by calling either Records, VICE, or Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC).

3. Sworn Employee Documentation and Reporting for SOAP Arrests

If a SOAP Order exists, is verified, and an arrest is made, sworn employees will generate an original report number. The cause number listed on the Order will be referenced on the report.

If there are new criminal charges, a new report number is generated. The new report should reference the original SOAP Order report number in the narrative.

4. Sworn Employees Reporting a SOAP Arrest

If a subject is arrested for violating a SOAP Order, sworn employees will complete the Superform using the existing SOAP Order report number and list the SOAP Order Violation from [SMC 12A.11.010](#) in the offense section of the Superform.

If the original SOAP order report number is listed on the Superform, it is not necessary to provide a copy of the SOAP Order.

5. Reporting a SOAP Violation When There is a “New” Charge

If a sworn employee arrests an individual for a crime other than SOAP and then determines that the subject is also in violation of an existing SOAP Order, the sworn employee should refer to the SOAP violation and include the SOAP Order report number in the offense section of the Superform.

Sworn employees should link the new report to the SOAP Order report number and list the SOAP Order report number in the report’s narrative.

Seattle Police Department Policy Manual

15.290-POL-3 Defined SOAP Zones

1. SOAP Zones

SOAP Zones are narrowly tailored to encompass areas of significant prostitution activity and/or criminal activity with a nexus to prostitution as identified in [SMC 12A.11.010\(B\)](#).

Unless otherwise specified, SOAP Zones include both sides of the streets, immediately adjoining sidewalks, alleys, and properties. All adjacent parks are included in the Zone.

SOAP Zones may be subject to change at the discretion of the City Council. Sworn employees should verify all SOAP Order violations through Communications and may see the most current SOAP Zone location in [SMC 12A.11.050](#).

2. SOAP Zone 1 Aurora

SOAP Zone 1 is established as the area in north Seattle generally bordered on the north by N 145 St, on the south by N 85 St, on the east by Stone Ave N, and on the west by Fremont Ave N (see map).

