
SENATE BILL 6490

State of Washington

59th Legislature

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By Senators Rasmussen and Kline

Read first time 01/13/2006. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to mitigating circumstances allowing departures
2 from sentencing guidelines; and amending RCW 9.94A.535.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9.94A.535 and 2005 c 68 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The court may impose a sentence outside the standard sentence range
7 for an offense if it finds, considering the purpose of this chapter,
8 that there are substantial and compelling reasons justifying an
9 exceptional sentence. Facts supporting aggravated sentences, other
10 than the fact of a prior conviction, shall be determined pursuant to
11 the provisions of RCW 9.94A.537.

12 Whenever a sentence outside the standard sentence range is imposed,
13 the court shall set forth the reasons for its decision in written
14 findings of fact and conclusions of law. A sentence outside the
15 standard sentence range shall be a determinate sentence.

16 If the sentencing court finds that an exceptional sentence outside
17 the standard sentence range should be imposed, the sentence is subject
18 to review only as provided for in RCW 9.94A.585(4).

1 A departure from the standards in RCW 9.94A.589 (1) and (2)
2 governing whether sentences are to be served consecutively or
3 concurrently is an exceptional sentence subject to the limitations in
4 this section, and may be appealed by the offender or the state as set
5 forth in RCW 9.94A.585 (2) through (6).

6 (1) Mitigating Circumstances - Court to Consider

7 The court may impose an exceptional sentence below the standard
8 range if it finds that mitigating circumstances are established by a
9 preponderance of the evidence. The following are illustrative only and
10 are not intended to be exclusive reasons for exceptional sentences.

11 (a) To a significant degree, the victim was an initiator, willing
12 participant, aggressor, or provoker of the incident.

13 (b) Before detection, the defendant compensated, or made a good
14 faith effort to compensate, the victim of the criminal conduct for any
15 damage or injury sustained.

16 (c) The defendant committed the crime under duress, coercion,
17 threat, or compulsion insufficient to constitute a complete defense but
18 which significantly affected his or her conduct.

19 (d) The defendant, with no apparent predisposition to do so, was
20 induced by others to participate in the crime.

21 (e) The defendant's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of his
22 or her conduct, or to conform his or her conduct to the requirements of
23 the law, was significantly impaired. Voluntary use of drugs or alcohol
24 is excluded.

25 (f) The offense was principally accomplished by another person and
26 the defendant manifested extreme caution or sincere concern for the
27 safety or well-being of the victim.

28 (g) The operation of the multiple offense policy of RCW 9.94A.589
29 results in a presumptive sentence that is clearly excessive in light of
30 the purpose of this chapter, as expressed in RCW 9.94A.010.

31 (h) The defendant or the defendant's children suffered a continuing
32 pattern of physical or sexual abuse by the victim of the offense and
33 the offense is a response to that abuse.

34 (i) This chapter's purpose of ensuring that sentences are
35 commensurate with the punishment imposed on others committing similar
36 offenses has been compromised at a stage prior to sentencing.

37 (j) The defendant's offender score overrepresents the seriousness

1 of the defendant's criminal history or the likelihood that the
2 defendant will commit future crimes.

3 (2) Aggravating Circumstances - Considered and Imposed by the Court

4 The trial court may impose an aggravated exceptional sentence
5 without a finding of fact by a jury under the following circumstances:

6 (a) The defendant and the state both stipulate that justice is best
7 served by the imposition of an exceptional sentence outside the
8 standard range, and the court finds the exceptional sentence to be
9 consistent with and in furtherance of the interests of justice and the
10 purposes of the sentencing reform act.

11 (b) The defendant's prior unscored misdemeanor or prior unscored
12 foreign criminal history results in a presumptive sentence that is
13 clearly too lenient in light of the purpose of this chapter, as
14 expressed in RCW 9.94A.010.

15 (c) The defendant has committed multiple current offenses and the
16 defendant's high offender score results in some of the current offenses
17 going unpunished.

18 (d) The failure to consider the defendant's prior criminal history
19 which was omitted from the offender score calculation pursuant to RCW
20 9.94A.525 results in a presumptive sentence that is clearly too
21 lenient.

22 (3) Aggravating Circumstances - Considered by a Jury -Imposed by
23 the Court

24 Except for circumstances listed in subsection (2) of this section,
25 the following circumstances are an exclusive list of factors that can
26 support a sentence above the standard range. Such facts should be
27 determined by procedures specified in RCW 9.94A.537.

28 (a) The defendant's conduct during the commission of the current
29 offense manifested deliberate cruelty to the victim.

30 (b) The defendant knew or should have known that the victim of the
31 current offense was particularly vulnerable or incapable of resistance.

32 (c) The current offense was a violent offense, and the defendant
33 knew that the victim of the current offense was pregnant.

34 (d) The current offense was a major economic offense or series of
35 offenses, so identified by a consideration of any of the following
36 factors:

37 (i) The current offense involved multiple victims or multiple
38 incidents per victim;

1 (ii) The current offense involved attempted or actual monetary loss
2 substantially greater than typical for the offense;

3 (iii) The current offense involved a high degree of sophistication
4 or planning or occurred over a lengthy period of time; or

5 (iv) The defendant used his or her position of trust, confidence,
6 or fiduciary responsibility to facilitate the commission of the current
7 offense.

8 (e) The current offense was a major violation of the Uniform
9 Controlled Substances Act, chapter 69.50 RCW (VUCSA), related to
10 trafficking in controlled substances, which was more onerous than the
11 typical offense of its statutory definition: The presence of ANY of
12 the following may identify a current offense as a major VUCSA:

13 (i) The current offense involved at least three separate
14 transactions in which controlled substances were sold, transferred, or
15 possessed with intent to do so;

16 (ii) The current offense involved an attempted or actual sale or
17 transfer of controlled substances in quantities substantially larger
18 than for personal use;

19 (iii) The current offense involved the manufacture of controlled
20 substances for use by other parties;

21 (iv) The circumstances of the current offense reveal the offender
22 to have occupied a high position in the drug distribution hierarchy;

23 (v) The current offense involved a high degree of sophistication or
24 planning, occurred over a lengthy period of time, or involved a broad
25 geographic area of disbursement; or

26 (vi) The offender used his or her position or status to facilitate
27 the commission of the current offense, including positions of trust,
28 confidence or fiduciary responsibility (e.g., pharmacist, physician, or
29 other medical professional).

30 (f) The current offense included a finding of sexual motivation
31 pursuant to RCW 9.94A.835.

32 (g) The offense was part of an ongoing pattern of sexual abuse of
33 the same victim under the age of eighteen years manifested by multiple
34 incidents over a prolonged period of time.

35 (h) The current offense involved domestic violence, as defined in
36 RCW 10.99.020, and one or more of the following was present:

37 (i) The offense was part of an ongoing pattern of psychological,

1 physical, or sexual abuse of the victim manifested by multiple
2 incidents over a prolonged period of time;

3 (ii) The offense occurred within sight or sound of the victim's or
4 the offender's minor children under the age of eighteen years; or

5 (iii) The offender's conduct during the commission of the current
6 offense manifested deliberate cruelty or intimidation of the victim.

7 (i) The offense resulted in the pregnancy of a child victim of
8 rape.

9 (j) The defendant knew that the victim of the current offense was
10 a youth who was not residing with a legal custodian and the defendant
11 established or promoted the relationship for the primary purpose of
12 victimization.

13 (k) The offense was committed with the intent to obstruct or impair
14 human or animal health care or agricultural or forestry research or
15 commercial production.

16 (l) The current offense is trafficking in the first degree or
17 trafficking in the second degree and any victim was a minor at the time
18 of the offense.

19 (m) The offense involved a high degree of sophistication or
20 planning.

21 (n) The defendant used his or her position of trust, confidence, or
22 fiduciary responsibility to facilitate the commission of the current
23 offense.

24 (o) The defendant committed a current sex offense, has a history of
25 sex offenses, and is not amenable to treatment.

26 (p) The offense involved an invasion of the victim's privacy.

27 (q) The defendant demonstrated or displayed an egregious lack of
28 remorse.

29 (r) The offense involved a destructive and foreseeable impact on
30 persons other than the victim.

31 (s) The defendant committed the offense to obtain or maintain his
32 or her membership or to advance his or her position in the hierarchy of
33 an organization, association, or identifiable group.

34 (t) The defendant committed the current offense shortly after being
35 released from incarceration.

36 (u) The current offense is a burglary and the victim of the
37 burglary was present in the building or residence when the crime was
38 committed.

1 (v) The offense was committed against a law enforcement officer who
2 was performing his or her official duties at the time of the offense,
3 the offender knew that the victim was a law enforcement officer, and
4 the victim's status as a law enforcement officer is not an element of
5 the offense.

6 (w) The defendant committed the offense against a victim who was
7 acting as a good samaritan.

8 (x) The defendant committed the offense against a public official
9 or officer of the court in retaliation of the public official's
10 performance of his or her duty to the criminal justice system.

11 (y) The victim's injuries substantially exceed the level of bodily
12 harm necessary to satisfy the elements of the offense. This aggravator
13 is not an exception to RCW 9.94A.530(2).

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