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## Sex offender group home outside Poulsbo raising concerns

**Andrew Binion, Kitsap Sun** Published 5:32 p.m. PT Dec. 3, 2018



(Photo: Kitsap Sun file)

POULSBO — Three sex offenders living at a group home outside Poulsbo following their conditional release from [McNeil Island Special Commitment Center](http://archive.kitsapsun.com/news/local/confining-states-sex-predators-is-it-still-a-cost-effective-solution-ep-419097109-357402171.html) (<http://archive.kitsapsun.com/news/local/confining-states-sex-predators-is-it-still-a-cost-effective-solution-ep-419097109-357402171.html>) have drawn concerns over possible threats to public safety.

The men were found to be “sexually violent predators,” a designation not given to every sex offender who finishes his or her sentences for criminal convictions. It is a designation for people who have been civilly committed following the completion of their prison sentences after they were found to have a mental abnormality or personality disorder that makes it more likely than not that they will re-offend if not confined.

All three men had their release — and safety plans — approved by Superior Court judges. The first man moved in around the beginning of 2018, but the announcement Nov. 15 of the most recent placement at the group home appears to have drawn the recent public interest.

**More:** [Confining State's Sex Predators: Is It Still a Cost-Effective Solution?](http://archive.kitsapsun.com/news/local/confining-states-sex-predators-is-it-still-a-cost-effective-solution-ep-419097109-357402171.html) (<http://archive.kitsapsun.com/news/local/confining-states-sex-predators-is-it-still-a-cost-effective-solution-ep-419097109-357402171.html>).

Since living at the property the three have not been accused of breaking the law or sexually assaulting anyone. A spokesman for the state Department of Social and Health Services, which operates the commitment center in Pierce County, said any rule violations would result in them being returned to McNeil Island.

### Men wear GPS devices

All three men living on the Viking Way NW property finished their criminal sentences years ago and have been incarcerated at the commitment center. Though DSHS operates the center, the state Department of Corrections conducts the report on their release plan and supervises them in the community. Local sheriff's offices are responsible for notifying the community as part of their duties maintaining the local sex offender registry and checking on those who are registered.

The three men's conditional release requires them to live at a property that has employees on-site 24 hours a day, according to court documents. The men also wear GPS locator ankle bracelets. To leave the property, their itinerary must be approved by a state Department of Corrections officer who supervises them. When away from the property — to attend treatment, for instance — they cannot drive and are accompanied by a chaperone. If the men leave the property without authorization or deviate from the approved route, the bracelets alert authorities.

### State law restricts local response

North Kitsap Commissioner Rob Gelder addressed some of the concerns Saturday as part of a previously scheduled meeting, but more meetings are being planned.

Gelder noted that state law prevents local governments — counties and cities — from restricting the location of sex offenders' residences. However, each man had a “less restrictive alternative” release plan approved by a judge that included a review of neighborhood concerns and protections.

While researching the issue, Gelder said he learned the supervision of the men is “intense.”

“This is not like being in jail, but within the community, as one can possibly imagine,” he said.

# Sexually violent predators'

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The property on the 17300 block of Viking Way NW is privately owned and leased to Kitsap Tenant Support Services, which manages group homes for those with mental health issues. The company formed Westsound Support Services to provide housing for those leaving the Special Commitment Center. Although the property has three men living there with less restrictive alternative" release plans, it could house up to six or possibly seven.

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Alan Frey, program manager, declined to comment at this time.

The three men are Elmer Todd Gillis (<http://archive.kitsapsun.com/news/code-911/sex-offender-to-remain-in-civil-commitment-program-ep-509831826-355544901.html>), 53, and William Deaville (<http://archive.kitsapsun.com/news/local/confining-states-sex-predators-is-it-still-a-cost-effective-solution-ep-419097109-357402171.html>), 51, both convicted in Kitsap County Superior Court, and Kim Patrick Daly ([https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WAKITSAP/2018/11/15/file\\_attachments/1108349/18-038%20Level%20III%20offender%20notification%20%28Daly%29.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WAKITSAP/2018/11/15/file_attachments/1108349/18-038%20Level%20III%20offender%20notification%20%28Daly%29.pdf)), 63, who was convicted in King County Superior Court.

Deaville was committed to the center in 1998, Gillis was committed in 1997 and Daly was committed in 2005.

Deaville and Gillis have multiple convictions for sex offenses against women and children. Court documents say they have developmental or cognitive disorders. Daly has convictions for sex offenses against a child along with men and women living in a home for the developmentally disabled.

There are currently 212 people living at the Special Commitment Center who have been designated as "sexually violent predators," said Chris Wright, a DSHS spokesman. Statewide, 56 have been given conditional release, with 20 of them living in a secure facility on McNeil Island. Five live in a secure facility south of downtown Seattle. There are 31 in community placement, like the three men living outside of Poulsbo.

"Any violations and they are sent back," Wright said.

## Kitsap has about 850 sex offenders

Kitsap County Sheriff's Office Detective Eric Adams oversees the county's sex offender registration program and said there are about 850 sex offenders registered in Kitsap County. About 63 of those are considered Level 3, who are checked four times a year. Lower-level sex offenders are checked twice a year. Homeless sex offenders are required to appear at the Sheriff's Office once a week.

The levels refer to a three-tier scale to reflect the likelihood that a sex offender will re-offend. Level 1 is the least likely to re-offend, Level 3 are the most likely to re-offend. The designation comes from an assessment (<http://www.static99.org/>) administered to adult male sex offenders and takes into consideration their criminal history and track record with treatment, among other factors.

Though the three men are not the only Level 3 sex offenders in Kitsap County, they are the county's only "sexually violent predators" living in group homes, Adams said.

However, another man who had the designation moved to the Olalla area in 1999 to live with his family. The placement of Donald A. Hendrickson, then 50, also drew considerable public concern, with 200 people attending one meeting ([https://products.kitsapsun.com/archive/1999/05-14/0051\\_olalla\\_kingston\\_offenders\\_in\\_th.html](https://products.kitsapsun.com/archive/1999/05-14/0051_olalla_kingston_offenders_in_th.html)).

Hendrickson had a history of luring and sexually assaulting children but apparently did not re-offend. He remains registered as a sex offender with the Sheriff's Office, but Adams said he later successfully petitioned a court to have his level lowered to Level 2.

Adams noted that given the schedule of routine checks, a typical sex offender could abscond after a visit from a police officer and be missing for up to six months before authorities realize. In contrast, the men living at the residence are under constant surveillance.

"There are no sex offenders more closely monitored than the gentlemen living at this place," Adams said.

The Sheriff's Office is responsible for generating the public notifications for sex offenders — including the men at the Viking Way house. It does not make explicit notice that they have been found to be "sexually violent predators."

## Neighbors were notified

The 16-acre property is on a stretch of Viking Way that does not have sidewalks. A security review of the property found no schools, daycares, churches, parks, libraries or other such facilities or activities within a one-mile radius of the property. There are, however, two North Kitsap School District bus stops within a mile.

Two neighbors told the Kitsap Sun they were aware that sex offenders were living on the property.

"I am concerned, but why get in a snit about it?" said neighbor James Hauf, who added that staying aware and vigilant was the appropriate response.

"They have to live somewhere."

Joseph Ekstedt, who has grandchildren who occasionally visit, said he has seen activity at the house but does not feel at risk.

"We've seen them outside, they haven't bothered us any," Ekstedt said.

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