



# **HOUSING COMMITTEE OVERVIEW**

***Establishing Housing for those Ordered to the  
CA SVP Conditional Release Program***

# Content Warning

## Discussion of Sensitive Topics

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- SVP HCM discussions may include content and comments from county stakeholders that describe sexual violence and/or trauma.
- DSH wants to acknowledge potential effects that exposure to these topics may have on participants who have either experienced and/or know someone who has experienced trauma related to sexual offenses and communities at large, as it is a global issue.
- Resources to support survivors of sexual violence are available at the following:
  - ValorUS, [www.valor.us](http://www.valor.us)
  - RAINN – National Sexual Assault Hotline; 800-656-4673, [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)



# Housing Committee Meetings

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- HCMs are held pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 6608.5, subdivision(d)(2), which provides a forum for our county partners to assist and consult in the process of locating and securing housing for a person who is committed under the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Act, also known as the SVP Act, and has been court approved for conditional release.
- The assistance and consultation provided by our county partners will help to inform placement updates and recommendations to the Superior Court.

# What Is The SVP Conditional Release Program?

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- The SVP Conditional Release Program (CONREP) is an intensive community-based treatment and 24-hours per day, 365 days per year, monitoring program designed to safely reintegrate SVP individuals into the community.
- Final phase of DSH's Sex Offense Treatment Program. This phase involves supervised skills application and community reintegration in CONREP for those approved by a court to participate.
- DSH recommends all SVP committed individuals complete the inpatient SOTP modules before participating in CONREP. However, inpatient treatment is *voluntary*, and the court can order CONREP with or without completion of the inpatient treatment modules.
- DSH contracts with Liberty Healthcare (LHC) to provide SVP CONREP services.



# How Does a Person Get Ordered to CONREP?

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The legal criteria is whether the diagnosed mental disorder of an individual committed as an SVP . . .



“has so changed that the person is not likely to commit acts of predatory sexual violence while under supervision and treatment in the community.”

# Why Placement in the Conditional Release Program (CONREP)?

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- SVP CONREP is the safest discharge pathway from the state hospital back into the community.
- SVP CONREP participants present lower recidivism rates compared to those unconditionally released to the community.
- Those who participated in SVP CONREP and went on to be fully discharged were 3 times less likely to get rearrested than SVP individuals who were directly discharged<sup>1</sup> to the community.
- SVP CONREP allows for continual monitoring and rehospitalization, if necessary, to ensure community safety.
- The California Supreme Court has held that the SVP Act is constitutional, in part, because the Act was designed to ensure that an SVP committed individual has the opportunity to be conditionally released from confinement.



<sup>1</sup> 1996-2017 follow up for all SVP releases and 1996-2019 follow up for CONREP SVP participants. (14% v 43%  
*D'Orazio, Azizian, Oliver, 2019*).

# What Happens After A Person Gets Court Ordered to SVP CONREP (WIC 6608.5)?

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- The individual ordered to SVP CONREP remains at the DSH hospital in pre-placement status until suitable housing is identified, noticed, and a court order for placement at the specified location occurs.
- Placement searches may occur only in the County of Domicile, unless the court rules Extraordinary Circumstances exist and orders a housing search in another county.
- SB 1034 (Chapter 808, Statutes of 2022) changed the SVP law in January 2023 and requires assistance and consultation in the process of securing housing from the Housing Committee, comprised of counsel for the committed person, sheriff or local chief of police, county counsel, and district attorney of the county of domicile, or their designees.



# Housing Searches are Restricted by a Housing Proximity Law (WIC 6608.5)

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- SVP CONREP reviews all available legally compliant residential options through a Site Assessment process.
- Locations prohibited by law:
  - Placements may not occur within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of any public or private school (K-12) for persons with improper sexual conduct with children (WIC 6608.5(f)).
  - Additionally, placement searches must consider proximity to victim and next of kin, as well as age and profile of victims.

# When Suitable Housing is Identified

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- The placement location is provided to the court, DSH notifies the sheriff or chief of police, and the district attorney for the jurisdictions where 1) the person may be released; 2) they last maintained legal residence, and 3) that which filed for SVP commitment (WIC 6609.1). These noticed parties may solicit for public comment.
- Noticed parties provide the written comments to DSH and the Court. DSH considers potential adjustments to the placement location or terms and conditions based on this feedback.
- The Court then approves, rejects, or modifies the provided placement location.

# SVP CONREP Supervision Tools

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- Court-ordered terms and conditions
- Unannounced and scheduled in person visits; searches, onsite and offsite from the residence
- Collateral contacts and chaperone training with significant people in the person's life
- Covert surveillance
- 24-hour active GPS monitoring; electricity generators for every CONREP participant
- Monitoring of approved electronics (i.e., phone, computer)
- Random urine screens for illicit substances
- Banking and expense reviews
- Approval of schedules, locations of outings, and routes of travel for all times outside of residence, verified by GPS tracking. The GPS system also provides "real time" tracking with instant notification of any violations of the inclusion/exclusion zones developed for the patient.
- Life skills training and other services needed to support safe and successful community reintegration

# Thank You

## Webpage:

[www.dsh.ca.gov](http://www.dsh.ca.gov)

## Questions:

[Officeofcommunications@dsh.ca.gov](mailto:Officeofcommunications@dsh.ca.gov)

