



# HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WILLIAM F. HONSAL, SHERIFF/CORONER

MAIN STATION

CIVIL/COURTS  
(707) 445-7335

826 FOURTH STREET • EUREKA CA 95501-0516  
PHONE (707) 445-7251 • FAX (707) 445-7298

CUSTODY SERVICES  
(707) 441-5159

April 14, 2025

Open Letter to Humboldt County Residents

Strong Opposition to the Release of Convicted Serial Rapist and Sexually Violent Predator Richard Stobaugh into Our Community

On April 3, 2025, the State of California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) formally notified my office, as well as the Humboldt County District Attorney, of their intent to release Richard Stobaugh, a convicted serial rapist, found to be a sexually violent predator (SVP), back into Humboldt County.

The DSH notice follows a December 4, 2023, order by Humboldt County Superior Court Judge Kaleb Cockrum directing the conditional release of SVP Stobaugh from DSH Coalinga. Despite objections from the District Attorney's Office, Judge Cockrum granted Stobaugh's petition for outpatient supervision and treatment for Stobaugh following a court trial. This ruling allows the DSH to relocate Stobaugh from a locked facility to a residence in Humboldt County.

We have now been notified that 2171 Peninsula Drive; Manila is selected as Stobaugh's proposed residence. On May 7, the court will consider whether to order this single-family home within the community of Manila as his new residence.

Let me be clear: I strongly oppose Judge Cockrum's ruling and the DSH placing this sexually sadistic predator anywhere in our county. Richard Stobaugh has a long, violent, and deeply disturbing history of sexually assaulting women in Humboldt County. His actions were not only premeditated and violent, but often committed under terrifying circumstances involving weapons, home invasions, and utter disregard for human life or dignity.

Background on Richard Stobaugh:

- 1981 – Raped a woman at knifepoint after breaking into her dorm room in Arcata. Served 5 years.
- 1987 – Armed with a firearm and wearing a ski mask, raped & sexually assaulted two women at a hotel. Forced one of the women to run naked several blocks outside the hotel, then he raped her again in a residential backyard.
- 1987 – Broke into a woman's home with a gun; attempted to kidnap her, before she fled
- 1988 – Entered a sleeping woman's home and raped her.
- 1988 – Broke into the home of a pregnant woman, tied her up, and raped her at knifepoint.

MCKINLEYVILLE STATION  
(707) 839-6600

GARBERVILLE STATION  
(707) 923-2761

CORONER'S OFFICE  
(707) 445-7242

ANIMAL CONTROL  
(707) 840-9132

TRINITY RIVER STATION  
(530) 629-1025



# HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WILLIAM F. HONSAL, SHERIFF/CORONER

CIVIL/COURTS  
(707) 445-7335

MAIN STATION  
826 FOURTH STREET • EUREKA CA 95501-0516  
PHONE (707) 445-7251 • FAX (707) 445-7298

CUSTODY SERVICES  
(707) 441-5159

Stobaugh was convicted and has been incarcerated since 1988, In 2012, he was determined to be a Sexual Violent Predator. He was then transferred to a locked Department of State Hospital Facility, where he is now awaiting his release.

A medical expert diagnosed Stobaugh as a sexual sadist, someone who derives sexual gratification from inflicting pain and psychological suffering on his victims. His crimes involved extreme violence far beyond what was necessary to subdue his victims, a clear indicator of the continued threat he poses.

We cannot ignore this reality. Placing this man back into our community, in proximity to women and children, is irresponsible, dangerous, and unacceptable.

I encourage all residents of Humboldt County to join me in voicing opposition to the proposed relocation of Stobaugh. I urge you to speak up. This isn't a political issue; it's about protecting public safety and ensuring our community can live without fear.

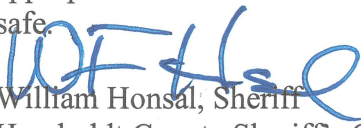
## Public Hearing:

Date / Time: May 7, 2025, at 10:15am  
Location: Superior Court of California, Humboldt County  
Courtroom One - Honorable Judge Christopher Wilson  
825 5th Street Eureka, CA 95501

## Contact Information to Submit Your Opposition:

- SVP CONREP Community Program Director – Liberty Healthcare  
[LIBERTYSVPCONREP@LibertyHealth.com](mailto:LIBERTYSVPCONREP@LibertyHealth.com)
- Honorable Judge Christopher Wilson – Humboldt Superior Court  
[jessicam@humboldtcourt.ca.gov](mailto:jessicam@humboldtcourt.ca.gov)
- Humboldt County Sheriff's Office  
[HSO@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:HSO@co.humboldt.ca.us)
- Humboldt County District Attorney  
[districtattorney@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:districtattorney@co.humboldt.ca.us)

We must stand together to protect our community from known, violent offenders. I will continue to fight this placement and urge Governor Newsom and state officials to find safer, more appropriate alternatives. Thank you for your support and dedication to keeping Humboldt County safe.

  
William Honsal, Sheriff  
Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

MCKINLEYVILLE STATION  
(707) 839-6600

GARBERVILLE STATION  
(707) 923-2761

CORONER'S OFFICE  
(707) 445-7242

ANIMAL CONTROL  
(707) 840-9132

TRINITY RIVER STATION  
(530) 629-1025



April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

TO: Kyla Baxley, CI, Humboldt County District Attorney's Office  
William Honsal, Sheriff, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

Dear Madam/Sir:

On about December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Honorable Kaleb Cockrum, Humboldt County Superior Court ordered the conditional release of Richard Stobaugh, Court Case 11149s, a Sexually Violent Predator (SVP), from the Department of State Hospitals' (DSH)-Coalinga to outpatient treatment and supervision. Outpatient status is the final phase of the relapse prevention treatment program, which DSH administers through the Conditional Release Program (SVP CONREP).

This will serve as official notice, under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 6609.1, regarding a residential placement being considered by the Humboldt County Superior Court for the community placement of a person committed as an SVP under (WIC) section 6604. The specifics are as follows:

<b>Name of Client:</b>	Richard Stobaugh
<b>Placement Address Considered:</b>	2171 Peninsula Dr, Arcata, CA 95521
<b>Date of Commitment:</b>	August 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2012
<b>County of Commitment:</b>	Humboldt County
<b>County of Domicile:</b>	Humboldt County
<b>County of Proposed Residence:</b>	Humboldt County
<b>Proposed Placement Date:</b>	Subject to final approval of the committing court.
<b>Next Court Hearing Date and Location:</b>	<b>May 7, 2025, at 10:15 a.m.</b> Honorable Christopher Wilson County of Humboldt Superior Court of California Courtroom One 825 5 <sup>th</sup> street Eureka, CA 95501

Re: Richard Stobaugh  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025  
Page 2 of 2

Agencies receiving this notification may provide written comments to the DSH and Court regarding the impending release, location, and conditions of release. Although DSH will accept all community agency comments up to the hearing date, DSH respectfully requests, as a courtesy, that the consolidated packet of all community agency comments is provided to DSH **on or before April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**. This allows sufficient time for DSH to submit its written statement pursuant to WIC section 6609.1, subdivision (b). All community agency comments shall be combined and consolidated and filed with the court, and provided to the DSH, by sending to the attention of:

SVP CONREP Community Program Director  
Liberty Healthcare  
[LIBERTYSVPCONREP@LibertyHealth.com](mailto:LIBERTYSVPCONREP@LibertyHealth.com)

If you have any questions, please contact Deirdre M. D'Orazio, Ph.D., at (916) 708-8597, or Melissa Bagwell, Psy.D., SVP CONREP Community Program Director, Liberty Healthcare at (661) 473-4023.

Sincerely,

*Mark Grabau, Ph.D.*

MARK GRABAU, Ph.D.  
Chief Psychologist  
CONREP Operations

MG/ad

cc: Honorable Christopher Wilson, Humboldt County Superior Court  
Teresa Clayton, ASW, Humboldt County Public Defender's Office  
Natalie Duke, Deputy County Counsel, Humboldt County Counsel Office  
Primitivo Ocampo, Parole Agent I, Fresno-Coalinga State Hospital Unit  
Arturo Rodriguez, Department of Justice, California Sex Offender Registry  
Melissa Bagwell, Psy.D., Community Program Director, Liberty Healthcare  
Deirdre M. D'Orazio, Ph.D., Department of State Hospitals  
Ralph Montano, Office of Communications, Department of State Hospitals  
Department of State Hospitals Legal Division

Encl.:

Fingerprints and Photograph provided to Humboldt County District Attorney's Office  
Fingerprints and Photograph provided to Humboldt County Sheriff's Office  
SVP CONREP Fact Sheet (March 2025)

**DECLARATION OF SERVICE**  
(Facsimile, Secure Email and/or First-Class Mail)

**Case Name: The People v. Richard Stobaugh**

**Humboldt County Case No. # 11149s**

I declare: I am employed in the Community Forensic Partnerships Division (CFPD), California Department of State Hospitals, at whose direction this service is made. I am 18 years of age or older and not a party to this matter; my business address is: 1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

I served the attached **6609.1 Notification Letter**, by transmitting a true copy by secure email or fax and certified U.S. Mail, pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 2008. The letter was sent as follows:

Honorable Christopher Wilson  
Humboldt County Superior Court  
[jessicam@humboldtcourt.ca.gov](mailto:jessicam@humboldtcourt.ca.gov)

Kyla Baxley, CI  
Humboldt County District Attorney's Office  
[kbaxley@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:kbaxley@co.humboldt.ca.us)

William Honsal, Sheriff  
Humboldt County Sheriff's Office  
[whonsal@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:whonsal@co.humboldt.ca.us)

Teresa Clayton, ASW  
Humboldt County Public Defender's Office  
[tclayton@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:tclayton@co.humboldt.ca.us)

Natalie Duke  
Deputy County Counsel  
[nduke@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:nduke@co.humboldt.ca.us)

**Sent Electronically Only to the Following:**

Primitivo Ocampo, Parole Agent I  
Fresno-Coalinga State Hospital Unit  
[Primitivo.Ocampo@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:Primitivo.Ocampo@cdcr.ca.gov)

Arturo Rodriguez  
Department of Justice  
California Sex Offender Registry  
[SVP.CSOR@doj.ca.gov](mailto:SVP.CSOR@doj.ca.gov)

Melissa Bagwell, Psy.D.  
Community Program Director.  
Liberty Healthcare of California, Inc.  
[melissa.bagwell@libertyhealth.com](mailto:melissa.bagwell@libertyhealth.com)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on:

Austin DeHerrera

*Austin DeHerrera*

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Print Name

Signature

Date



---

# CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS

## FACT SHEET

---

March 2025

### SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR (SVP) CONDITIONAL RELEASE PROGRAM (CONREP)

#### Fast Facts

- SVP CONREP is a step-down program between inpatient commitment and unconditional release that facilitates safe transition back to the community.
- The process of placing a patient committed as an SVP in the community is strictly regulated by law.
- The court determines whether a patient is eligible for conditional release and approves where the patient will live. Due to statutory placement limitations, housing is found on a case-by-case basis. Community safety is the top priority.
- To date, no participant has perpetrated a sexual contact offense while in SVP CONREP.
- About 5% of patients committed to the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) pursuant to the SVP Act have achieved conditional release through SVP CONREP.
- About 32% of SVP CONREP participants have had their conditional release revoked to ensure community safety.
- About 41% of SVP CONREP participants have been unconditionally released by the courts from the program.
- A patient cannot enter the SVP CONREP discharge pathway until the court fully commits them as an SVP to the state hospital for at least one year. Until they are fully committed, they are legally classified as civil detainees.

#### Overview

The Forensic Conditional Release Program (CONREP) is DSH's statewide system of community-based services for court-ordered individuals. Mandated as a state responsibility, CONREP began on January 1, 1986. It operates according to the law, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 4360.

In 1996, the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Act (WIC section 6600, et. seq.) went into effect. It is a civil law, not a criminal law, which means its purpose is treatment and rehabilitation, not punishment; and is applied after the person completes their prison sentence. Together with the support and safety measures of CONREP, an individual committed to the state hospital as an SVP can safely transition back to being a fully functioning member of the community.

The SVP commitment process begins at the time an individual is pending release from prison or jail. If the required legal criteria for commitment are met, the court orders the transfer of the individual at the end of their prison term to DSH for sex offense treatment in a state hospital, although participation in treatment is voluntary. DSH's Sex Offense Treatment Program (SOTP) is designed to be administered through four sequential inpatient modules followed by a conditional release component, CONREP, that is delivered in the community. Civil detainees, not yet determined by the court to meet legal criteria for full commitment as an SVP, are legally ineligible to be conditionally released to CONREP.

The SVP Act governs all SVP commitments and releases. Releases from the hospital to the community are either unconditional (full discharge to the community) or conditional through CONREP and are court-ordered. Unconditional releases occur when a court determines an individual no longer meets the legal criteria for SVP commitment. Conditional releases occur when a court determines the individual would not be a danger to the health and safety of others in that it is not likely that the person will engage in sexually violent criminal behavior due to the person's diagnosed mental disorder if under supervision and treatment in the community. CONREP is an intensive community-based treatment, and 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, monitoring program with gradual steps toward increased community re-entry depending on treatment progress. DSH contracts with Liberty Healthcare to provide SVP CONREP services across the state.

SVP CONREP is designed in accordance with best practice standards, called the Risk, Needs, and Responsivity Principles. Research shows that interventions with sex offenders that follow these principles have the greatest reduction in re-offense rates. Interventions are coordinated through the Collaboration Model of sex offender management that relies on cross agency teamwork and a broad range of services that are flexibly applied in response to patient's risk profiles and treatment needs. This model of sex offender treatment holds patients accountable by the combined use of the patient's internal controls, developed during inpatient treatment, and the use of external tools, including polygraph examinations, surveillance, and electronic monitoring. It is victim-centered, focusing on community safety as the primary goal. Close collaboration and communication by all parties participating in the patient's community treatment and supervision are essential. The ideal evidence-based discharge pathway for SVP patients is as follows:

### **Community Placement Process**

The process of CONREP placement starts when the court determines the patient meets the legal criteria for CONREP (WIC section 6608) and the terms and conditions for the patient's participation are set. The court then orders CONREP to locate a residence for the patient in their county of domicile, which is legally determined by the court. The county of domicile is typically the same county that is responsible for the patient's SVP commitment proceeding. Placements to other counties are rare and only occur in extraordinary circumstances, after the committed person's county of domicile petitions the court to make such a finding, meeting specific criteria, and the court grants the petition (WIC section 6608.6). The court identifies the county or counties in which CONREP is ordered to search for placement. CONREP does not search in counties outside of the court's ordered locations.

SVP CONREP investigates and clinically reviews housing sites pursuant to the court's orders and the individual patient's current needs and risk factors, as identified by the state hospital and CONREP. Housing assessments consider Jessica's Law compliance (Penal Code section 3003.5) and SVP Act residency restrictions (WIC section 6608.5), including proximity to schools and parks where children regularly gather, clinical risk factors, treatment progress and needs, protective factors, community reintegration needs, victim profiles, and locations to ensure community and patient safety.

If the property appears to meet all statutory and court ordered requirements, LHC submits the potential placement location to undergo a three-level review process with DSH. Through this three-level review process, DSH staff (including clinical, legal, leadership and DSH's Director's Office) review the potential placement and forensic risk factors to evaluate suitability for the

SVP CONREP individual's placement. DSH staff work closely with LHC to ensure that all information is included in each relevant document. If a property completes the three-level review process, DSH approves LHC to present the potential placement location to Housing Committee members for discussion and additional feedback, and then for submission to the court for consideration.

### **Housing Committee**

Effective January 1, 2023, pursuant to Senate Bill 1034 (Atkins, Statutes of 2022), DSH to convene a committee to obtain relevant county assistance and consultation in locating and securing suitable housing for the person who has been approved to be conditionally released. The committee participants are comprised of counsel for the committed individual, the local sheriff or chief of police, county counsel, and the district attorney for the county of domicile (WIC section 6608.5). The housing committee is not a decision-making body.

The intent is that the committee will engage in a collaborative process to find a suitable residential placement for the specified person deemed a resident in that county.

After seeking input from the committee members, SVP CONREP submits potential residence(s) to the Court for approval. SVP CONREP obtains Court authorization to financially secure a residence for potential placement of the CONREP-ready SVP patient. The court then orders DSH to provide official notice to the community pursuant to WIC section 6609.1 of the potential placement location. Pursuant to WIC section 6609.1, SVP CONREP provides this notice to the District Attorney and local law enforcement in the community where the individual is to be released, where they maintained their last residence, and in the county that filed for their civil commitment (if different). The District Attorney and local law enforcement will

utilize this information to provide notice to the public about the potential placement location. The law provides a 30-day timeline for public notification with case specific information including: name, proposed placement address, date of commitment, county of commitment, hearing date, time and location, and other court-ordered specifics. This is the period where those noticed may provide their opinion on the prospective placement to the District Attorney or law enforcement who then provide the community's feedback to SVP CONREP for consideration. After the 30- day public notification period, the placement hearing occurs where the court may order placement of the patient to the proposed residence identified in the public notice.

From start to finish, the housing search and placement process can take up to one year or longer.

### **Community Safety Plan for Release**

As the statewide SVP CONREP provider, Liberty Healthcare has the responsibility to ensure that the patient ordered to CONREP complies with the court-ordered community safety plan and terms and conditions of outpatient treatment. The court-approved plan outlines the conditions of outpatient treatment and supervision the individual must adhere to while in the community. The terms and conditions and the community safety plan are extensive, detailed, and describe the intensive monitoring and supervision that SVP CONREP will provide.

The terms and conditions are developed by SVP CONREP staff while the patient is at the state hospital, and they may be amended resulting from the information provided during the comment period prior to placement, and after placement based on collaborative feedback from law enforcement, the district attorney, the patient counsel, or other members of the community safety team. The terms and conditions are tailored to the patient's individualized risk factors and treatment needs and delineate the rules and

agreements of the patient's community placement. Violations of the terms and conditions are reported to the court and may result in consequences such as revocation of conditional release and a return to the hospital. CONREP requires strict adherence to terms and conditions so violations are not uncommon and may signal the need for treatment and management at the hospital level.

### How SVP CONREP Works

Use of a Community Safety Team (CST), a standard practice for providing community supervision and treatment, is the method by which the principles of Risks, Needs, and Responsivity and the Collaboration Model are applied for each patient. Members of the CST include the following:

- CONREP Regional Coordinator
- CONREP Clinical Program Director
- Treatment Providers
- Victim Advocate
- Polygraph Provider
- Local Law Enforcement
- Defense Attorney and Deputy District Attorney
- Others as needed for support, accountability, and/or clinical needs

The SVP CONREP program utilizes the following supervision and monitoring tools that are carried out by the CST:

- Unannounced and scheduled in person visits onsite and offsite from the residence
- Collateral contacts and chaperone training with significant people in the patient's life
- Covert surveillance
- 24-hour GPS monitoring
- Monitoring of approved electronics (i.e. phone, computer)
- Random urine screens for illicit substances
- Unannounced residence, vehicle, and personal property searches
- Banking and expense reviews

- Approval of schedules, locations of outings, and routes of travel for all time outside of residence that is verified daily by review of a GPS tracking system that provides "real time" tracking with instant notification of any violations of the inclusion/exclusion zones developed for the patient or tampering with the GPS device
- Life skills training, residential placement, and other services needed to support safe and successful community reintegration

Monitoring tools used in conjunction with sex offender treatment professionals include:

- Polygraph examination, including both sexual history exams (to obtain a reliable assessment of the patient's history of sexual behavior), maintenance exams (to assess treatment progress and compliance with the terms and conditions of release), and specific issue exams (to address individual risk relevant concerns)
- Physiological assessment of sexual arousal (Plethysmography)
- Assessment of sexual interest (i.e. Abel Assessments)

Service levels set minimum treatment and supervision activities for patients in SVP CONREP. Patients start at the intensive service level, and as they progress, they can move to the supportive and transitional levels of care, then to the point of readiness to discharge from CONREP. Evaluations and assessments are ongoing during the period of state hospitalization, upon entry into the community and throughout SVP CONREP treatment and supervision. Quarterly and annual progress reports are provided to the court pursuant to statute.

**For more information regarding CONREP, visit [www.dsh.ca.gov](http://www.dsh.ca.gov)**