



MANAGING SEX OFFENDERS: CITIZENS SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT



A RESOURCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT



BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance
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Introduction

State and local law enforcement agencies are on the front line of a significant and growing public safety challenge: returning sex offenders. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) estimates that more than 566,000 offenders are listed in state sex offender registries nationwide (March 2006). Further, the most recent statistics from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), estimate that approximately 234,000 sex offenders are under some form of correctional or community supervision. Equally challenging to law enforcement are the sex offenders no longer under these types of formal supervision. The exact number of this population is not known. Of special significance are those sex offenders who have absconded or failed to register with local law enforcement agencies.

Considerable media coverage of high profile cases involving violent sex offenders and predators has increased public demand to know what law enforcement is doing to prevent future victimization and what citizens can do to protect themselves. These concerns have precipitated a wave of new legislative activity across the country. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), "new means to supervise and protect the public from sex offenders were top anti-crime priorities of state legislatures in 2005." State legislatures passed more than 100 sex offender laws in 2005.¹ A report on state policy developments lists sex offenders as one of its 12 "Issues to Watch" in 2006.²

The impact of such legislation on law enforcement is substantial. Laws require state and local law enforcement agencies to maintain sex offender registries and implement community notification practices. New measures require: lifetime registration for certain offenders, electronic monitoring, and a broader scope of offenses subject to registration. Law enforcement executives must juggle existing resources to ensure that they are equipped to comply with national and state laws requiring their agencies to register, monitor, and track the returning sex offender population in their communities. In addition, law enforcement agencies struggle to strike a balance between increasing public awareness of the presence of high risk offenders while decreasing an atmosphere of fear and anxiety.

To cope with the expanding requirements, law enforcement is tapping into previously untapped resources. Citizens are a major resource. The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program, an initiative of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), DOJ, offers wide-ranging information and resources for and about law enforcement volunteer programs. From this program, we know that many law enforcement agencies across the country use citizens to support and expand agency functions, including sex offender management activities. In partnership with BJA, the IACP's Citizen Involvement in Sex Offender Management Project (CISOM) has comprehensively examined the specific roles of citizens to assist law enforcement to manage sex offenders. Citizens assist with registration, community notification, address verification, and other monitoring and tracking efforts.

The goal of CISOM is to reduce disorder and victimization through increased citizen involvement with law enforcement to register, track, and monitor returning sex offenders. Project objectives are to:

- Determine the state of citizen involvement in sex offender management.
- Identify leading citizen-involved sex offender management practices.
- Develop a resource guide to promote the use of leading practices by law enforcement agencies.
- Disseminate products widely to the law enforcement community.

The IACP has identified, visited, and collected information from thirteen local law enforcement agencies. This state-of-practice information has been used to develop this guide.

The purposes of the guide are to:

- **Section I:** Highlight relevant federal, state and local sex offender legislation that impacts law enforcement.
- **Section II:** Identify emerging operational challenges and potential policy implications that face law enforcement leadership.
- **Section III:** Provide examples of how law enforcement agencies use citizens to support and enhance sex offender management.
- **Section IV:** Address the pressing need to better equip law enforcement to register, track, and monitor sex offenders.
- **Section V:** Provide resource materials from profiled agencies and a sampling of national initiatives designed to increase law enforcement's ability to prevent, reduce, investigate, and prosecute crimes committed by sex offenders.

SECTION I

KEY POLICY MANDATES IMPACTING LAW ENFORCEMENT: LEGISLATION TARGETING SEX OFFENDERS

Many laws have been passed during the last two decades to strengthen law enforcement's ability to monitor and track sex offenders in the community, and more recently, on the Internet. National legislation has created registration systems and community notification requirements. State legislation has centered on increasing penalties and expanding the scope of state sex offender registries (SORs). Local governments are passing laws to further restrict registered sex offenders.

A chronological review of key national laws and the general requirements imposed on law enforcement follows.

National Legislation

- **1990: Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 (Clery Act)**

The Clery Act requires college and university law enforcement agencies to report sexual assaults and other crimes on and around campus using the FBI's Uniform Crime Report classification system. Annual reports are required from any college or university that participates in federal financial aid programs. In 2000, the law was amended to require schools to notify the campus community about where on campus they can access public information about registered sex offenders.

- **1994: Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (Wetterling Act)**

When 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling was abducted in Minnesota in 1989, law enforcement did not have any comprehensive listing of sex offenders from which to begin an investigation. Passed as part of the 1994 Federal Omnibus Crime Bill, the Wetterling Act requires all states to create and maintain a sex offender registry. Since its passage, the Act has been amended several times.

Wetterling Act Amendments

- **1996: Megan's Law** In 1994, 7-year-old Megan Kanka was kidnapped, raped, and murdered by a convicted sex offender living across the street. Megan's family was unaware that their neighbor was a convicted sex offender.

Megan's Law amended the Wetterling Act to require public notification of a sex offender's release into the community. This amendment also mandated all states to develop notification procedures to allow public access to certain information about the location of violent sex offenders in their communities.

- **1996: The Pam Lyncher Sexual Offending Tracking and Identification Act (Lyncher Act)** authorized the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to establish a national database of certain convicted sex offenders who reside in states that do not have a "minimally sufficient" sex offender registry program. For those states that fall into this category, the FBI is required to register the sex offender's fingerprints and current contact information.
- **1997: Jacob Wetterling Improvements Act** The Wetterling Act was amended again in 1997 to add specific language to expand registration to those with military convictions and required sex offenders to register in the state in which they work or attend school.
- **2000: Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act** mandates that any person who is required to register in a state must also notify the institution of higher education in that state in which the person is employed, carries on a vocation, or is a student.

- **2006: The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006**

Signed into law in July 2006, the new Act allows law enforcement access to a central repository of information to better track sex offenders' movements. Requirements of the new law include:

- Creating a national sex offender registry with standardized information accessible to law enforcement;
- Making failure to register a felony crime;
- Requiring in person and more frequent registration, as opposed to via mail (a current practice in many states);
- Ordering sex offenders to register in the jurisdiction where they reside, work, and go to school;
- Broadening registration requirements to include juveniles convicted of certain sex crimes.³



State Legislation

In 2005, more than 100 laws regarding sex offenders were passed by state legislatures. This surging legislative activity has continued into 2006. Recently enacted state laws include measures that mandate:

- Use of electronic monitoring or Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Increased penalties for failing to register
- Mandatory sentences for certain offenses (most often crimes against children)
- Additional offenses subject to registration requirements
- More information made publicly available
- Lifetime registration
- Adding DNA information to public registries of those convicted of certain sex crimes.

Examples of new state legislation:

- In 2005, **Florida** passed the Jessica Lunsford Act which increases penalties for crimes against children, mandates sex offenders (under formal supervision or not) to report twice a year in-person to local law enforcement, and requires lifetime electronic monitoring for certain high risk offenders.
- Effective July 1, 2006, **Virginia** passed legislation that expands public information in the state registry to include non-violent sex offenders, requires GPS monitoring for serious sex offenders, and mandates state colleges and universities to submit student application information to the Virginia State Police to be checked against the state and national sex offender registry.
- **Nebraska** recently enacted legislation that requires “transient” or homeless offenders to notify the local sheriff at least once every 30 days or within 5 days of acquiring a new address.

State Sex Offender Registries (SORs)

The Wetterling Act required states to establish sex offender registries (SORs). Who manages registries varies from state to state. In March 2002, a BJS study reported the following breakdown of agencies hosting state SORs:

- State Police or Patrol (17);
- Department of Public Safety (11);

- Office of the Attorney General (6);
- Department of Corrections (3); and
- Other criminal justice agency (15)—i.e., crime information centers, state division of criminal justice services, law enforcement divisions, bureau of investigation.

Further, the study reported that there were approximately 386,000 convicted sex offenders registered in 49 states and the District of Columbia.⁴

Information Sharing and Dissemination

Information captured and publicly shared in SORs differs across states. While some SORs offer basic demographic data on the registered offender, others provide greater detail — a photo, age of victim, specific address, and employment information. There is much debate over how much information is necessary to share to enhance public safety.

The dissemination of sex offender registration data generally flows in both directions between the state agency and the local law enforcement agency. State agencies notify a local law enforcement agency when a sex offender is scheduled to be released into their jurisdiction. Local law enforcement agencies forward registration records to state agencies to update state SORs. Information dissemination practices vary in scope and frequency: some transmittals occur regularly, others by request only. Registration information may be sent in paper and/or electronic format.⁵ Further, because of the variance in the types of information collected and posted (i.e., type of offense, information processing delay) it is difficult to calculate the exact number of registered sex offenders in registries across the country.

Sex Offender Management Boards

In addition to sex offender registries, many states have boards that oversee efforts to manage sex offender populations effectively. Examples:

- The **Colorado** Sex Offender Management Board is charged to develop standards and guidelines to evaluate, treat, and monitor the behavior of sex offenders.
- The **Illinois** Sex Offender Management Board develops and implements standards and laws to protect victims and communities and to hold offenders accountable through the



identification, treatment, and monitoring of both adult and juvenile sex offenders.

- The **Massachusetts** Sex Offender Registry Board institutes an automatic appeal process for offenders before their inclusion in the state's registry.

Implementing Community Notification Laws

While a few states already had community notification statutes in place, the mid-to-late 1990s brought wider interpretation of community notification laws, or Megan's Law. To comply with Megan's Law, all states began to authorize community notification provisions at varying paces and degrees of implementation. The law left states with wide discretion and interpretation on:

- How notification happens and when;
- Which offenders communities receive notification about;
- Who gets notified;
- What information communities receive; and
- Who notifies the community.

The March 2002 BJS report examined local community notification practices. Examples of community notification practices include:

- Holding community meetings;
- Hanging fliers in the department and/or handing them out in the community;
- Posting information on a state and/or local agency website;
- Supplying information upon public request; and
- Providing the state's SOR web link on the local agency's web site.

In addition to these practices, many law enforcement agencies report additional notification activities such as publishing certain registered sex offender names and photos in local or neighborhood newspapers.

Many studies and reports examine the impact and effectiveness of community notification laws but few focus specifically on the direct impact to law enforcement.⁶ With many states enacting new laws and with law enforcement's resources continuing to be stretched, the efficacy of community notification practices will likely be studied in greater detail.

Local Ordinances: Housing and Residency Restrictions

Local governing bodies are increasingly proposing and enacting ordinances directed at sex offenders. Examples of these ordinances include those that limit multiple sex offenders from residing in one structure and prohibit sex offenders from living within a certain range from schools, daycares, playgrounds, and other areas where children congregate. Illinois state law prohibits registered sex offenders from residing within 500 feet of a school, day care facility, park, or playground. Oklahoma recently passed legislation that bans certain sex offenders from living within 2,000 feet of similar facilities, rendering certain towns and counties unlivable for sex offenders, pushing offenders to abscond or relocate in neighboring jurisdictions. In some states, local jurisdictions are passing residency restrictions that are more restrictive than the state law.

The constitutionality of residency restrictions is facing legal challenges. For example, Georgia recently enacted a state law that declares sex offenders convicted of specific offenses (predatory and child molesters) cannot live within 1,000 feet of a church, school, child-care facility or school bus stop. In June 2006, a federal judge blocked the state from implementing a portion of the law which prohibits sex offenders from living within 1,000 feet of a school bus stop.

Summary of Key Policy Mandates Impacting Law Enforcement

All levels of government have created legislation targeting sex offenders. While laws have been passed to strengthen law enforcement's ability to monitor and track sex offenders, the responsibility placed on law enforcement operations has grown precipitously.

SECTION II

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FIELD: OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES

Sex offender management policy mandates further tax law enforcement's already stretched resources. From our literature review and field research, we can discern the direct and indirect costs from expanded sex offender legislation and the resulting operational challenges. Operational challenges covered below include those directly and indirectly attributable to legislative mandates.

Operational Challenges Directly Resulting from Legislation

Remaining Current with Legislation

Law enforcement personnel must work constantly to keep up to date on their own state's current laws, neighboring state laws, and any national laws that impact their sex offender enforcement efforts. Initial IACP field research in local law enforcement agencies indicates that to enforce new national and state laws, agencies will need:

- Additional personnel to process and conduct in-person registrations,
- Equipment to accurately and efficiently complete the registration process,
- Personnel to maintain and verify the accuracy of information within the offender registration files, and
- To develop and maintain relationships with other public safety agencies to regularly exchange information and intelligence.

Given Congress' recent passing of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act in July 2006, it is too early to interpret the implications to law enforcement not included in the above listed needs.

Implementing Community Notification

By its design, community notification produces massive numbers of public inquiries regarding sex offenders living in the community. Inconsistencies in states' policies often exacerbate the situation by leading to a confused public and frustrated law enforcement community trying to implement notification in the most cost effective and safest way possible. A Seattle Police Department detective aptly describes the widespread confusion that can result from inconsistent community notification policies and SOR systems from state to state:

"This type of system where everyone is on their own is very confusing for law enforcement, especially as offenders move

across state lines. It is also confusing to offenders who find different rules and regulations in each state. Citizens are equally confused when they find that an offender, who had to register for life in one state, doesn't have to register in the new state. They are confused when one state places their registered sex offenders on an Internet site, yet in their state, Internet posting is not allowed."

In December 2000, the National Institute of Justice released a publication that describes the impact of community notification on several stakeholders (residents, law enforcement, probation/parole, and sex offenders) in Wisconsin.⁸ The study included survey responses from 188 police and sheriff agencies; survey results revealed that the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police and Badger State Sheriffs' Associations had already developed guidelines for public notification of sex offenders. The guidelines call for a local or regional approach to notification involving law enforcement, corrections, and other agencies. Other survey results echo current concerns of law enforcement executives: additional labor expenditures, increased workload, and added strain on departmental resources. Emerging trends in sex offender management strategies may include developing similar statewide community notification policies for local law enforcement agencies.

Enforcing Residency Restrictions

As addressed previously, many local governing bodies are expanding the radius of residency restrictions beyond the state requirement. Potential consequences of residency restrictions could be sex offenders deciding not to register with, and therefore, failing to notify law enforcement of their whereabouts. Consequently, when such a restriction is in place, many sex offenders are pushed into adjacent communities, raising concern with the local community and causing a new public safety challenge for neighboring law enforcement agencies. From a management strategy perspective, many law enforcement agencies are struggling to comply with such mandates.

Offender Address Verification

Conducting address verifications is an important aspect of effective tracking and monitoring efforts. In some states, law enforcement is mandated to perform address verification checks of certain registered sex offenders on an annual or bi-annual basis. In other states, the decision to conduct address verifications is optional, made by the individual agency executive. Many law enforcement agencies do not have appropriate staffing levels to adequately verify sex offenders' addresses on a



regular basis. The lack of verification activity contributes to and results in an increase of inaccurate sex offender registration data and reduces the intent of sex offender registration laws.

Operational Challenges Indirectly Resulting from Legislation

Forging Strategic Partnerships and Enforcement Efforts

In the course of examining the literature and current sex offender management initiatives, we have learned that law enforcement agencies are forging partnerships resulting in increased abilities to supervise, monitor, and track registered and unregistered sex offenders. The Center for Sex Offender Management states that no two jurisdictions will comprehensively manage sex offenders in the same manner, but an essential component of an effective strategy involves multidisciplinary and multi-agency practices.⁹ In other words, resources, funding, and local offender population are variable and determining factors in a local law enforcement agency's sex offender management strategy. Nonetheless, effective sex offender management practices stress that law enforcement must also partner with a larger network of local, regional, or national agencies to share information.

To meet the various requirements of federal and state laws and to acknowledge community outcries, law enforcement agencies are creating special internal units to track and monitor registered sex offenders and establishing formal liaisons with correctional and other public safety agencies. Some departments work closely with state law enforcement officials to follow up on absconders and non-compliant offenders. Others, like St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, have entered into a memorandum of understanding with city police departments to bolster and strengthen the region's sex offender management efforts.

Using Technology: Global Positioning Systems (GPS)

Developed in the 1960s, GPS has emerged as a technological tool for supervising and monitoring sex offenders, most widely used by correctional supervising agents rather than law enforcement personnel. Many state legislatures are arguing for increased use of electronic monitoring for high risk sex offenders. While GPS affords supervisory agents greater capacity to monitor the physical movement of sex offenders, primary disadvantages include:

- Cost (can be four to five times as much as standard electronic monitoring)
- Requires additional staffing

- Dependence on cell phone availability and connection
- Cooperation of offender
- Housing (offenders must have a place to charge equipment).¹⁰

In 2005, the state of Maryland convened a task force to study Criminal Offending Monitoring by GPS. In examining law enforcement's ability to use GPS as a crime solving tool, the task force determined that:

"GPS technology should be utilized on persons that are a high risk to public safety. Therefore, the collaborative and cooperative procedures giving access to these [sic] data to law enforcement personnel and allowing input from law enforcement in GPS's use on individuals need to be fundamental considerations in the design of the overall strategy."¹⁰

It is uncertain at what level police and sheriff's departments will begin to use the technology and/or if electronic monitoring systems will become "a fundamental consideration" as part of an overall sex offender management practice and strategy. If current trends continue, most states are likely to pass laws that require some form of electronic monitoring for certain high risk sex offenders.

Tracking Challenges

Homeless sex offenders and sex offenders moving across states often slip through the cracks of registration systems and create a burdensome tracking challenge for law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement also struggles with the retroactivity of statutes; a vast number of sex offenders do not fall under any type of supervision or registration requirements because of legislation passed after their release or prior to any registration or notification requirements in the state. The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 establishes a national sex offender registry with standardized information accessible to law enforcement intended to assist them with tracking the movement of sex offenders across states.

Summary of Operational Challenges for Law Enforcement Executives

Law enforcement executives will continue to face significant operational challenges as new legislation unfolds, the registered sex offender population grows, and the community demands for safety increases. The following section highlights one operational response employed by an increasing number of law enforcement agencies — citizens supporting law enforcement's sex offender management efforts.

SECTION III

AN OPERATIONAL RESPONSE: CITIZEN SUPPORT IN MANAGING SEX OFFENDERS

Law enforcement agencies are finding innovative solutions to operational challenges posed by the burgeoning numbers of registered sex offenders. One innovative approach is enlisting volunteers and partnering with citizens to support and enhance agency efforts to manage sex offenders. Citizens and volunteers play a significant role in enhancing law enforcement's ability to maintain public safety and comply with sex offender mandates. Volunteers are helping law enforcement fill voids in their efforts to:

- Process and conduct in-person registrations,
- Maintain and verify the accuracy of information within sex offender registration files, and
- Develop and sustain relationships with other public safety agencies to regularly exchange information and intelligence.

Many agencies have been successful in identifying meaningful and beneficial volunteer roles. Specifically:

- The registration process generates a great deal of paperwork. Maintaining an accurate, up to date database and filing system is critical to effectively managing tasks related to tracking and monitoring registered sex offenders. Volunteers provide significant administrative support with keeping these systems organized and up to date.
- Agencies have also trained special groups of volunteers to hand out community notification fliers to residents surrounding a sex offender's residence.
- Some departments use auxiliary officers to conduct regular address verifications of registered sex offenders. In some states, legislation mandates that local law enforcement conduct address verifications of certain registered sex offenders.
- Some departments have developed formal relationships with citizen groups and organizations to create educational materials that define community notification laws and provide community members with guidance on how to contact law enforcement for additional information.

The reason for citizen involvement is clear—the community is eager to support the police or sheriff's department in enhancing community safety and to protect itself from sex offenders and predators. This section offers profiles of thirteen different law enforcement agencies' efforts to engage citizens in such activities.

For contextual purposes, each profile includes a brief snapshot of the sex offender registration process in that state. The snapshot includes a description of the:

State Sex Offender Registry: Identifies which public safety agency is responsible for managing the state's sex offender registry.

Classification System: A majority of states have created classification systems designed to determine a sex offender's level of risk to the community. Registration requirements and the type of public information released are often based upon a sex offender's classification.

Key Registration Components: Answers to questions regarding who is required to register, for what offenses, with what local law enforcement agency, and for how long are found in lengthy, and sometimes vague, state statutes. This section briefly summarizes key aspects of the state's registration laws of which the local agency must comply.

Baltimore County Police Department (Maryland)

Address Verification of Child Sex Offenders

Agency Profile

- County Population Served: 764,000
- Sworn Employees: 1,857
- Number of Registered Offenders: 600
- Departmental Unit: Criminal Investigations Division

Assessing the Need

Under Maryland law, child sex offenders must register annually, in person with law enforcement in the jurisdiction in which the registrant lives or where a non-resident registrant works or attends school. In 2001, the Baltimore County Police Department (BCOPD) Family Crimes Unit conducted a random check of registered child sex offenders in Baltimore County. Of the offenders checked, many were in non-compliance with state law by failing to maintain a verifiable address. As part of the department's sex offender management strategy, the BCOPD increased their address verification efforts of child sex offenders by engaging members of the BCOPD Auxiliary Police Team. While Maryland law does not mandate address verifications, BCOPD believes that conducting such checks are an important piece of their overall sex offender management strategy. Additionally, community members have voiced their gratitude for the additional monitoring efforts.

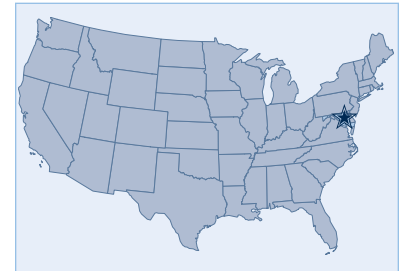
Operational Response

Creating a Sex Offender Registration Team (SORT)

In 2006, the BCOPD made a strategic decision to move sex offender management activities from the records division to the criminal investigations division. Centralizing these activities in the new division allows the department to more aggressively monitor and track registered sex offenders. The newly created Sex Offender Registration Team (SORT) is supervised by the Special Victims Unit corporal and comprises one civilian police service officer (PSO) and one detective. This structure provides for more upper level administrative support for all positions.

Increased Address Verification Efforts

The SORT unit is responsible for conducting address verification checks. Supporting the unit are members of the BCOPD Auxiliary Police Team (APT). APT members are specially trained volunteers that assist the BCOPD with patrol, calls for service, crowd and traffic control, community events, and other duties. Auxiliary officers wear brown uniforms (distinct from the department's blue uniform), drive marked vehicles, and work in pairs. Address checks of registered child sex offenders are performed once a year on a random basis. An auxiliary commander is responsible for coordinating the address checks within his/her assigned precinct. When the auxiliary members are called for support, their specific duties include:



State Sex Offender Registry:
Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
<http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/onlineservs/sor>

Classification System:

- Sexually Violent Predator
- Sexually Violent Offender
- Child Sex Offender
- Sexual Offender

Key Registration Component:

Most serious offenders must register regularly and for life with a designated local law enforcement agency. New laws take effect on 9/1/06.

- Responding (in pairs) to the sex offender's registered address and identifying themselves to adults present at the residence;
- Interviewing the offender and/or other adults present;
- Completing a Sexual Offender Address Verification form and returning it to the team administrator within thirty days.

If the registered offender's address cannot be verified or if it is determined that the offender does not live at the address, the information is noted on the form. Any required follow up or investigations are given to the Special Victims Unit personnel. Even if the offender is not at the registered address, the auxiliary members are still able to collect valuable information from other adults and neighbors that live at or near the residence.

The sergeant in charge of the auxiliary unit is very appreciative of the volunteer's assistance. The auxiliary officers provide significant support to the SORT unit; they have the ability to perform over seventy checks in one day. Without these trained volunteers, the address checks would happen less often.

Future Activities

The BCOPD also has a Citizens on Patrol (COP) unit. As an established, visible community group, the BCOPD is considering using COP volunteers to further support their sex offender management efforts. Possible activities include having copies of notification letters in COP units for the volunteers to distribute when appropriate.

Lessons Learned

- Improving the quality of life and protecting the public are key departmental values. Using a trained group of citizens enhances the department's support with the community.
- To have a successful program, the sergeant recommends the need for appropriate supervision of the auxiliary team and stresses that interviewing skills must be a key training point.

Contact Information

Police Services Officer Sarah Hahn or Corporal Steve Duffey
 Phone: 410-887-5584
<http://www.co.ba.md.us>

Bellevue Police Department (Washington) Determining Risk to Re-offend

Agency Profile

- City Population Served: 115,500
- Sworn Employees: 175
- Number of Registered Offenders: 80
- Departmental Unit: Investigations/Crime Analysis Unit

Assessing the Need

In 2002, a Level One registered sex offender was arrested and convicted for brutally attacking and beating a Bellevue woman. The investigation revealed that the offender had a criminal record that could have placed him in a higher risk level category. As a result of the case, the Bellevue Police Department's (BPD) crime analysis detective decided to review and verify risk level assessments on all of the registered sex offenders in the city of Bellevue. Enlisting the support of a volunteer, the department collected comprehensive information on eighty sex offenders. The process took approximately one year to complete, but with the volunteer's hard work, the department was able to confidently provide reliable and accurate information regarding sex offenders in Bellevue.

Operational Response

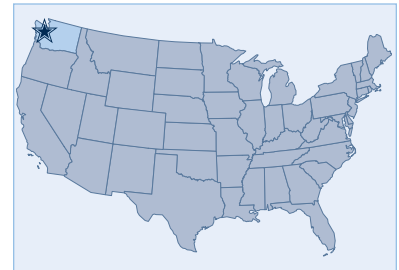
Currently, the BPD has a volunteer who uses a state-provided scoring tool to assign a risk-to-reoffend level for every sex offender who registers within City limits. Once the volunteer has reviewed all the information (i.e., background, history, and documentation) and assigned a risk level, he and the crime analysis detective meet to discuss the risk level classification. While the detective makes the ultimate risk level determination, the volunteer's careful review of the materials helps to ensure that all details are taken into consideration. If they agree the level should be different than what is currently assigned, the case is taken to the city attorney. As a result of the added review, the BPD has increased the number of Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders. This reclassification allowed the department to share relevant information about these offenders with the public that they would have otherwise been unable to do.

Lessons Learned

- Screening and supervision are keys to success. Because the volunteer has access to case details, the material can be upsetting. The supervisor and the volunteer must completely support and trust each other.
- Both the community and the police department benefit from an increased awareness of an offender's assigned risk level.

Contact Information

Detective Frank Nunnelee
Phone: 425-452-4484 • Email: FNunnelee@ci.bellevue.wa.us • <http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us>



State Sex Offender Registry:
Washington Association of
Sheriffs and Police Chiefs
through the Washington
State Patrol
<http://ml.waspc.org/>

Classification System:

- Level 3 High Risk
- Level 2 Moderate Risk
- Level 1 Low Risk

Key Registration Components:
For all qualifying offenses, sex offenders are required to register in person at the Sheriff's office in the county of their residence. The duration of an offender's duty to register is based upon the original offense.

Buffalo Police Department (New York) Community Education and Outreach

Agency Profile

- City Population Served: 293,000
- Sworn Employees: 774
- Number of Registered Sex Offenders: 600
- Departmental Unit: Sex Offense Squad

Assessing the Need

Believing that direct citizen input is an essential part of developing community notification protocols, the lieutenant in charge of the Buffalo Police Department's (BPD) Sex Offense Squad sought just that. After discussions with the police commissioner, he met with an established group of citizens to listen as to how best to disseminate information regarding sex offenders to the community. That meeting, with the BPD's Citizen Advisory Group to the Police Commissioner (CAG), led to the creation of an educational brochure that articulates sex offender laws and ordinances, offers myriad ways to find registered sex offenders, and shares tips for keeping kids safe. *A copy of the brochure can be found in the Appendix section.*

Operational Response

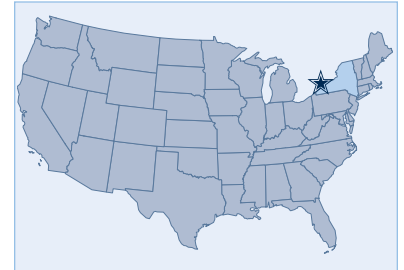
Collaboration and Education

The mission of the BPD's CAG is to assist the police department through a cooperative effort in assessing community needs and expectations relative to police services, consolidation, and community policing. When approached for input, the group was delighted to be involved; they were especially willing to participate in this effort because it concerned increasing the safety of children. The ultimate decision to create a brochure was a collaborative effort between the CAG and sworn staff. While the Sex Offense Squad lieutenant maintained ultimate oversight of the brochure, community members played a large role in determining what information was to be included in the brochure.

The CAG asserts that the larger community does not readily know where or how to obtain basic information about registered sex offenders in their community. The brochure was created to:

- Increase awareness of sex offender laws and ordinances;
- Identify and list available resources (telephone numbers, Internet sites, and local resources);
- Increase communication with and reporting to the police about suspicious behaviors; and
- Bridge an information gap.

A broad marketing strategy for the brochure is already underway. CAG members distribute the brochure to faith-based groups, citizen preparedness centers, block clubs, at city-wide events (i.e., preparedness fairs, festivals), listservs, and through other targeted outreach. The costs of



State Sex Offender Registry:
New York State Division of
Criminal Justice Services
<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us>

Classification System:

- Level 3 High Risk
- Level 2 Moderate Risk
- Level 1 Low Risk

Special designations: sexual predator, sexually violent offender, predicate sexual offender.

Key Registration Components:
All levels must register with New York State. Level 1 with no designation are required to register for twenty years. Level 1 (with designation), Level 2, and Level 3 must register with local police department for life (Level 3 every 90 days).

producing the brochure are minimal, involving mostly printing and postage. Many community groups will reproduce and disseminate the brochure themselves.

Future Activities

Once the brochure has been well-saturated throughout the community, the Sex Offense Squad lieutenant hopes to hold more educational meetings and conduct tailored outreach. For example, if a community has a high rate of interfamilial-related crimes, the Unit would send sworn staff and a representative from an appropriate community resource to talk to the group. This discussion would be different from a meeting with another community that might have a high rate or reports of violent crimes or sexual assaults.

Lessons Learned

- The biggest programmatic benefit is that ideas are coming directly from the community helping the sworn staff to understand the community's perspective on what they want and need to know; community members are fully invested in the process.
- Costs are minimal to the department. A large network of community organizations will absorb most of the low printing costs and will use members to widely distribute the brochure throughout the city.
- Find a core community group that is reflective of the city's demographics and encourage them to meet with police department to learn about sex offender management activities.

Contact Information

Michele Graves, BPD
Community Liaison
Phone: 716-851-4112 • Email: shellyg116@aol.com
<http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us>

Denver Police Department (Colorado) Administrative Support: Organizing and Maintaining Sex Offender Files

Agency Profile

- City Population Served: 554,636
- Sworn Employees: 1,523
- Number of Registered Offenders: 1,260 (over 3,000 in Greater Denver Metro area)
- Departmental Unit: Crimes Against Persons

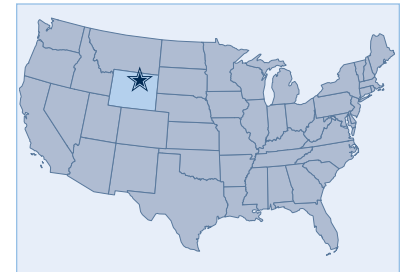
Assessing the Need

One of the initial volunteer positions created within the Denver Police Department's (DPD) volunteer program was administrative support for the Sex Offender Registration Unit. A detective within the unit is responsible for maintaining sex offender registration files, processing failure to register violations, conducting community meetings, and implementing other community notification activities. With such a large number of files to maintain and activities to coordinate, the volunteer support allows greater flexibility for the detective and ensures that registration files are accurate and up-to-date.

Sex offenders may register at the police department from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm Monday through Friday; the initial registration process can take more than an hour to complete. Large amounts of paperwork and other materials must be filed. Additionally, the DPD is required to conduct community notification meetings for offenders classified as sexually violent predators. Investment of time is significant and efforts surrounding sex offender management are time intensive. Preparation and planning for community meetings consumes a large portion of the detective's time, approximately two to three days per meeting. During this time, maintaining and updating the sex offender registration files must wait.

Operational Response

When the Denver police department began their volunteer program, the Sex Offender Registration detective immediately requested help. Through an established screening and selection process, the detective found two volunteers to help out two to three days a week. In a short time, the volunteers organized and filed all the stacks of registration materials. Now, volunteers collect basic background information for the files including making phone calls to verify addresses and entering information into the department's database. The volunteer support has provided the detective with much more time to focus on community notification activities, such as posting the "Sexually Violent Predator Community Notification Bulletin" on the DPD's website and managing and tracking non-compliant offenders.



State Sex Offender Registry:
Colorado Bureau of Investigation
<http://sor.state.co.us/>

Classification System:

- Sexually violent predators
- Multiple offenders
- Failed to register
- Felony conviction

Key Registration Components:
The requirement to register is determined by a judge at sentencing; those required may have to register anywhere from quarterly to annually.

Lessons Learned

- Since the volunteer sits in the room where photos and electronic fingerprints are captured, he may hear about certain details of the offense(s); the volunteer must be comfortable working in this environment and be confident in approaching a supervisor if they are not.
- Volunteers must be sensitive to confidentiality issues.

Contact Information

Detective Richard D. Schneider
Phone: 720-913-6156 • Email: schneiderr@ci.denver.co.us
<http://www.denvergov.org/police>

El Paso Police Department (Texas) Administrative Support—Database Management

Agency Profile

- City Population Served: 564,000
- Sworn Employees: 1,100
- Number of Registered Sex Offenders: 454
- Departmental Unit: Sex Offender Registration and Tracking Unit

Assessing the Need

The goal of the El Paso Police Department's (EPPD) Sex Offender and Registration Tracking Unit (SORT) is to ensure that there are no more victims of sex crimes at the hands of registered sex offenders. The unit is comprised of three officers responsible for registering, tracking, and monitoring sex offenders within the city of El Paso. These officers also provide public notification information to the community, local newspapers, and school districts. Maintaining an accurate database and file system is critical to effectively managing these tasks and tracking registered sex offenders. Volunteers have provided a great deal of administrative support to the SORT unit.

Operational Response

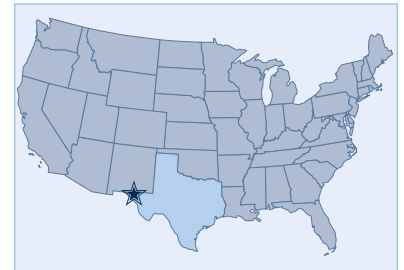
Administrative Support

Currently, one volunteer assists the SORT unit by updating and maintaining the department's internal database of registered sex offenders. Since 2002, the volunteer has expanded the database to include updates on offenders' movements from one jurisdiction to another (for example, movement in and out of the city to the county). On a regular basis, the volunteer generates separate listings for offenders that are required to register every ninety days and annually. These lists allow the SORT officers to quickly identify which offenders are delinquent in their registration and immediately respond.

The officers highly value the volunteer's support since the registration process generates a large amount of paperwork. The volunteer work performed allows the officers to spend more time in the field verifying addresses and checking on registered offenders. While in the field, the officers rely heavily on the presence of the volunteer and often call him to quickly access information contained in the sex offender database.

Future Activities

The chief of police is considering expanding citizen involvement activities in support of the EPPD's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Team. With special training, volunteers would assist the ICAC team by viewing or entering online chat rooms to help catch online predators.



State Sex Offender Registry:
Texas Department
of Public Safety
<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us>

Classification System:

- Civil Commitment
- Level 3 High Risk
- Level 2 Moderate Risk
- Level 1 Low Risk

Registration Requirements:
For all qualifying offenses, offenders are required to register with the local law enforcement entity for ten years or life, depending upon the offense.

Lessons Learned

- Developing information sharing partnerships with other law enforcement agencies enhances the department's ability to track sex offenders. The EPPD works closely with local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies.

Contact Information

Officer Roger Genera
Phone: 915-298-9663 • Email: generar@elpasotexas.gov
<http://www.ci.el-paso.tx.us/police>

Fairfax County Police Department (Virginia) Protecting Children on the Internet

Agency Profile

- County Population Served: 986,000
- Sworn Employees: 1,309
- Number of Registered Sex Offenders: 391
- Departmental Unit: Major Crimes Division, Child Services Unit

Assessing the Need

ChildSafeNet (CSN) is a non-profit organization working with local law enforcement officials to make communities safer for kids. CSN was founded and spearheaded by a Fairfax County resident who has a personal commitment to protecting children from sexual predators online and in the open community.

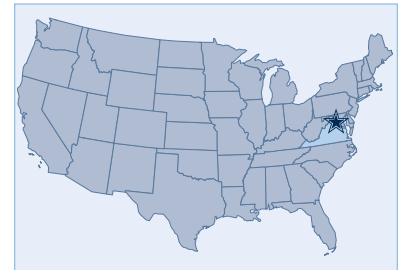
The Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) is the first law enforcement partner to implement the CSN's feature program, Protecting Children Against Sex Offenders (P'CASO). This program was developed in partnership with the FCPD and is centered upon the belief that sexual offenders can be managed most effectively at the local community level. FCPD leadership strongly believes that there is a clear role for citizens to play by educating parents to monitor what kids are doing on the Internet. The P'CASO program's stated goals are to:

- Increase local law enforcement's capacity to apprehend child sexual predators on the Internet and in the open community;
- Increase local law enforcement's capacity to monitor convicted sex offenders who are released back into society, and;
- Increase public awareness of child safety through quality educational programs for adults and kids.

Operational Response

Sexual Predator Enforcement and Apprehension Detail (SPEAD)

In 2004, the Sexual Predator Enforcement and Apprehension Detail (SPEAD) was launched in the Major Crimes Division. Under the supervision of a second lieutenant within the Child Services Unit, the SPEAD unit originally comprised three detectives funded through the P'CASO program. In May 2006, the FCPD added an additional SPEAD detective, one child exploitation detective, and one computer forensics detective funded through P'CASO's support. As part of their monitoring and investigative efforts, SPEAD detectives collect routine intelligence to assist with tracking and also communicate regularly with the Virginia State Police to aggressively enforce state sex offender registry laws.



State Sex Offender Registry:
Virginia State Police
<http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor>

Classification System:

- Violent Sex Offender
- Sex Offender

Registration Requirements:
Violent sex offenders must register every 90 days. Sex offenders must register every 12 months.
*As of July 1, 2006 non-violent offenders are also included in the state's public registry.

Successes

While the P'CASO program is still balancing between the implementation and operational phases, the benefits of the partnership are clearly evident. FCPD attributes part of the program's success to the heart and soul of the community members managing the program. With the recent high profile media coverage of sex offenders, the police department has received a large volume of calls from the community. Both CSN and the police department have been able to point to this partnership and their active efforts to protect children and to prevent online victimization by sexual predators.

Challenges

Aggressively monitoring and enforcing compliance with registration laws requires human and financial resources. Through the CSN partnership, the FCPD has been able to bolster its capacity to track and monitor sex offenders. But funding (both public and private) for these added positions was and continues to be difficult to obtain. Fortunately, because FCPD is a large organization, they are able to adapt and use existing resources to push the effort forward. If an agency is considering developing a similar partnership or effort, agency size may be a factor in determining project scope. Lastly, FCPD strongly encourages law enforcement agencies to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of police and local officials during the planning stages.

Future Activities

ChildSafeNet and the police department have proceeded using existing resources with minimal private funds. To fully implement the program as planned, additional resources are crucial. Both organizations continue to conduct outreach to increase citizen participation and awareness. In the long term, the department also hopes to involve auxiliary volunteers in their sex offender management activities.

Lessons Learned

- Maintaining open communication and a direct relationship between organizational liaisons (public and private) is critical.
- Be flexible and assume that organizational partners will need to adapt. Any long term public/ private partnership will incur difficulties (financial, staff turnover, etc) and flexibility is key to maintaining success.

Contact Information

Second Lieutenant Scott Durham

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<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police>

Framingham Police Department (Massachusetts) Active Community Notification

Agency Profile

- City Population Served: 75,000
- Sworn Employees: 135
- Number of Registered Offenders: 105
- Departmental Unit: Administrative Services Division

Assessing the Need

In 2003, community members approached the Framingham Police Department (FPD) and inquired about the community notification process and related laws. The FPD was sending notification emails and packets to Boys and Girls clubs and schools for Level 2 and Level 3 offenders. Following this meeting, the Chief decided to expand the department's website to include information on Level 3 offenders and to physically hand out notification fliers within a 500 foot radius of a Level 3 sex offender's home. Yet, with other duties, few sworn officers were able to commit the time needed for distributing fliers. Fortunately, the FPD has a dedicated, qualified group of auxiliary volunteers who were ready and willing to assist with this valuable task.

Operational Response

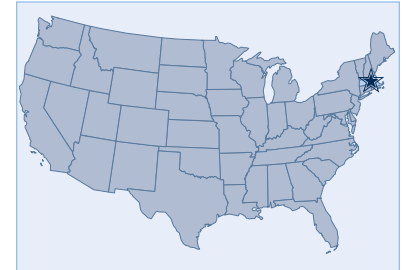
Distribution of Community Notification Fliers

The Framingham Auxiliary Police (FAP) is a group of approximately twenty-five men and women who volunteer their time and skills as auxiliary police officers. The FAP provides approximately 4,000 hours of community service to the town annually and acts as an additional set of eyes and ears for the Framingham community.

The lieutenant assigned to the FPD's Licensing Bureau is responsible for managing the sex offender registration process. When a Level 3 offender first registers, the lieutenant generates a map and a notification flier. The flier is posted in the department's lobby and copies are given to the auxiliary captain to coordinate the auxiliary volunteer's activity. In teams of two, FAP officers distribute the notification fliers to neighbors living within 500 feet of a Level 3 sex offender. The FAP officers complete a checklist to identify and track which addresses have received fliers. The entire process takes approximately two to three weeks to complete.

Safety

Safety of the FAP officers and the community are priorities for the department. Safety precautions include clearly noting the offender's address on the map so that fliers are not distributed to the offender's address. Because some neighborhoods may be considered less safe than others, the FPD does not use civilian volunteers to perform this task. Additionally, the shift commander and dispatch are always informed when the FAP officers are in the field handing out fliers.



State Sex Offender Registry:
Massachusetts Sex Offender
Registry Board
<http://www.mass.gov>

Classification System:

- Sexually Violent Predator (Special Designation of Level 3)
- Level 3 High Risk
- Level 2 Moderate Risk
- Level 1 Low Risk
- Level 0 Awaiting Classification

Key Registration Components:
Once a risk level is assigned, Level 2 and 3 offenders must register in person with the local police department in the city in which they reside. Level 1 offenders register by mail to the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board.

Benefits

Handing out notification fliers door-to-door reaches a broader segment of the community that may not have access to the Internet, regularly watch the news, or be able to get to the police department to view the posted fliers. Having the FAP officers out in the neighborhoods also assists the department with tracking information about the offenders. Often times, community members will speak with the auxiliary officers and thank them for their efforts and alert them if they know that an offender no longer resides at an address or if they are driving a different vehicle.

Lessons Learned

- The chief of police believes the decision to hand out fliers demonstrates the department's leadership in increasing public safety and forging community partnerships.
- Without the FAP officers' support, the police department would not be able to provide a heightened level of community notification (i.e., going door-to-door and handing out notification fliers).

Contact Information

Lieutenant Ronald Brandolini
Phone: 508-628-1349, Ext. 245
<http://www.framinghampd.org/>

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (Missouri) Registering Sex Offenders

Agency Profile

- County Population Served: 200,000
- Sworn Employees: 151
- Number of Registered Offenders: 263
- Departmental Unit: Support Services

Assessing the Need

As the designated local law enforcement official under Missouri law, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) must register approximately 260 sex offenders who are required to register in person, every ninety days or annually, for life. Processing and filing these registrations requires significant time and oversight. Sex offender registration responsibilities fall under the purview of the Victim Service Coordinator (VSC). The VSC's duties also include reviewing domestic violence cases, going to court, and acting as a liaison with the women's shelter. Without the support of two volunteers, she is significantly strained to conduct registrations and perform all other job functions.

Operational Response

Registration Volunteers

The JCSO has streamlined their registration process by using two longstanding department volunteers to assist with this mandatory task. Because of these volunteers, the JCSO is able to accept and process registrations two full days a week. As sex offender information is shared publicly, the VSC must also spend a considerable amount of time answering and responding to large volumes of public inquiry. The volunteers help to alleviate this strain on the department's limited resources. Working on alternate days, the volunteers assist with:

- Processing new registrations, taking fingerprints, and entering information into a database;
- Checking the offender's driver's license and taking photographs when necessary;
- Recording address changes or any new information provided by offenders;
- Verifying information on JCSO registration cards and forms; and
- Entering information into the department's database.

A principal benefit of using the volunteers in registration is accuracy of information. Information collected is more accurate because there is an extra set of eyes checking registration documents. The volunteers give the registration cards to the VSC to be reviewed and signed before they are sent to the state highway patrol for inclusion in the state's sex offender registry.



State Sex Offender Registry:
Missouri State Highway Patrol
<http://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov>

Classification System:
None

Key Registration Component:
For all qualifying offenses, sex offenders are required to register annually for life with the chief law enforcement official (sheriff) in the county in which they reside.

If the victim is under the age of 18, the offender must register every 90 days.

Lessons Learned

- Accuracy of information. By assisting in this capacity, the information collected is more accurate because there is an extra set of eyes double checking registration cards and other forms.
- It is important to the JCSO to have confident and unbiased volunteers. This type of volunteer activity requires trust and the right attitude.

Contact Information

Dawn Davison, Victim Services Coordinator
Phone: 636-797-5017 • Email: ddavison@jeffcomo.org
<http://www.jcsd.org>

Independence Police Department (Kentucky) Administrative Support: Verifying Sex Offender Registry Information

Agency Profile

- City Population Served: 17,000
- Sworn Employees: 28
- Number of Registered Offenders: 10–12
- Departmental Unit: Criminal Investigations, Community Projects

Assessing the Need

While the number of registered sex offenders within Independence city limits is low, the Independence Police Department (IPD) wanted to develop a process for quickly identifying the presence of registered sex offenders within the city and surrounding counties. As the region's population and infrastructure has grown, the police department has taken an active approach to their tracking and monitoring efforts. Part of this approach included recruiting a long-standing, active volunteer to support the agency with sex offender management activities.

Operational Response

Administrative Support: Registered Sex Offender Binder

In 2005, the Captain over the IPD's volunteer program approached a long-standing department volunteer and discussed how he might assist the department with tracking and monitoring registered sex offenders. The result was the creation and maintenance of a binder that includes photos and addresses of all registered sex offenders in Independence and addresses of registered offenders in neighboring counties. Approximately every two weeks, the volunteer collects this information from the state's online registry and cross references the addresses to ensure that they are valid and accurate.

The purpose of the binder is to provide officers quick access to a centralized source of accurate information about registered sex offenders in and around Independence. The binder is kept in the department's roll call space. The chief of police states centralizing this information helps to save officers' time and having the volunteer scrutinize addresses increases the accuracy of the information maintained by the department.

Lessons Learned

- It is important to be proactive and verify information shared on the state sex offender registry web site.
- A volunteer activity does not need to be complicated to be effective.

Contact Information

Commander Anthony Lucas
Phone: 859-363-2921 • Email: communityprojects@cityofindependence.org
<http://www.cityofindependence.org/police/>



State Sex Offender Registry:
Kentucky State Police
<http://www.kentuckystatepolice.org/sor>

Classification System:

- Lifetime registrants
- Ten year registrants

Key Registration Component:

Depending upon the qualifying offense, sex offenders are required to register with the sheriff's office for ten years or life:

- if convicted after July 15, 1994 or incarcerated/sentenced after July 15, 1998
- or if an offender is designated as Sexually Violent Predator under another state, territory, or federal law.

Itasca Police Department (Illinois)

Citizens on Patrol: Enhanced Surveillance of Registered Sex Offenders

Agency Profile

- Village Population Served: 8,800 (60,000 during the day)
- Sworn Employees: 27
- Number of Registered Offenders: 7
- Departmental Unit: Operations

Assessing the Need

Illinois state law prohibits registered sex offenders from residing within 500 feet of a school, day care facility, park, or playground. To enhance surveillance efforts, the Itasca Police Department (IPD) leveraged existing department resources by incorporating the Citizen on Patrol (COP) volunteer activities in support of their Habitual Offender Program; specifically with monitoring registered sex offenders.

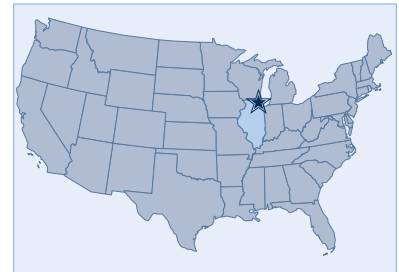
Operational Response

Enhanced Surveillance and Monitoring Activities

Established in May 2005, COP volunteers patrol in pairs for a minimum of four hours, wear the Itasca Citizens on Patrol uniform, and drive a marked volunteer vehicle. COP volunteers regularly monitor registered sex offenders' residences within corporate village limits to gather vehicle information and/or document any suspicious activity. As mandated by state law, COP volunteers patrol schools, day care facilities, parks, and other locations throughout the village where children normally congregate. Any information gathered is organized into binders kept in the COP vehicle and at the police department. COP volunteers maintain the binder which includes:

- COP procedures;
- Suspect bulletin form with photo;
- Vehicle photos with tags clearly visible; and
- Locations of schools, day care facilities, parks, and other areas of interest (apartment playgrounds, country club, soccer field, etc.)

COP volunteers provide a valuable community service by specifically monitoring these areas for the presence of registered sex offenders or their vehicles. If a registered sex offender or their vehicle is observed in a prohibited location, COP volunteers immediately contact dispatch so that an officer can investigate the matter. COP volunteers never exit their vehicles during these situations; if they ever feel uncomfortable, they are instructed to contact a patrol officer.



State Sex Offender Registry:
Illinois State Police
<http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor>

Classification System:

- Sexually Violent
- Sexually Dangerous
- Sexual Predator
- Sexual Offender

Key Registration Components:

- Sexual offenders or sexual predators must register with chief of police or sheriff in the jurisdiction in which they reside.
- Sexually violent and sexually dangerous offenders are generally incarcerated or under the care and treatment of the IL Department of Human Services.

Benefits

The continuity of the COP monitoring and reporting efforts reap many benefits. The deputy chief states that these activities:

- Raise the awareness of both the community and patrol officers of registration laws
- Assist with maintaining accurate registration information
- Send a message to registered sex offenders that registration laws and village ordinances are being enforced.

Future Activities

During business hours, Itasca's day population increases dramatically. The IPD is concerned about the unknown number of sex offenders that may work or travel through their town on a daily basis. The department is considering the feasibility of expanding their COP program to partner with neighboring jurisdictions. This would be accomplished using a regional information sharing system to obtain names, addresses, and vehicle information of registered sex offenders in the neighboring jurisdictions. Currently, state law does not require sex offenders to also register in their city of employment.

Lessons Learned

- COP volunteers provide a valuable community service by specifically monitoring designated areas for the presence of registered sex offenders or their vehicles.
- The added monitoring support sends a message to registered sex offenders that registration laws and village ordinances are being enforced.

Contact Information

Deputy Chief Robert O'Connor

Phone: 630-773-1004 • Email: roconnor@itasca.com

<http://www.itasca.com/police/>

Palm Bay Police Department (Florida) Integrating Volunteers into Community Notification Activities

Agency Profile

- City Population Served: 100,000
- Sworn Employees: 155
- Number of Registered Offenders: 92
- Departmental Unit: Sex Crimes Unit, Criminal Investigations Division

Assessing the Need

Within the Palm Bay Police Department's (PBPB) Sex Crimes Unit (SCU), one full-time officer has the primary responsibility for coordinating PBPB's sex offender tracking and monitoring efforts. The unit's goal is to ensure the safety of children through properly monitoring registered sex offenders and predators. This officer also serves as PBPB's representative on a county-wide sex offender registration and tracking team and participates in the Central Florida Sex Offender Task Force based in Orlando. Providing key support and assisting the officer with his multiple SCU duties are a student intern and volunteer members of the PBPB's Volunteer Citizen Observer Patrol.

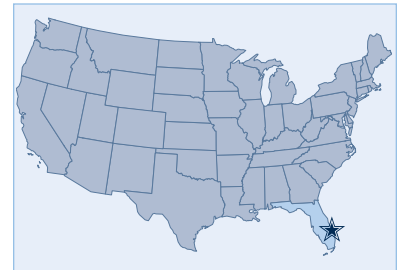
Operational Response

Internship: Sex Crimes Unit (SCU)

A forensics psychology student at the Florida Institute of Technology interns with the PBPB, assigned specifically to the SCU. Giving approximately twelve hours a week, she accompanies the officer out into the field, works on special projects, and enters data into the department's internal sex offender database. From her perspective as a community member, mother, and student, the community needs more direction on where to look for information regarding sex offenders. When the City Council asked the police department to create an informational flier to disseminate to local schools, the intern worked together with the SCU officer to create a flier describing the unit's goals, available services (i.e., community meetings or presentations), and departmental contact information. *A copy of the flier can be found in the Appendix section.*

Volunteer Citizen Observer Patrol (VCOP)

Since 1996, the PBPB's Volunteer Citizen Observer Patrol (VCOP) has assisted the department with a variety of supportive tasks including front desk duties, security and safety checks, and patrol activities. When the numbers of registered sex offenders started to increase, the VCOPs stepped in to help with community notification activities. When a sex offender relocates or moves into Palm Bay, the SCU officer will verify the address and create a notification flier. In pairs, VCOPs distribute the fliers to residents, schools, and nursing homes within a one-mile radius of the offender's home. As a safety precaution, the volunteers do not deliver to the offender's house or the house on either side and are connected to the police department via car radios. Through their contact and communication with neighbors and residents, the volunteers believe that any additional information



State Sex Offender Registry:
Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)
<http://www.floridasexoffender.net>

Classification System:
■ Sexual Predator
■ Sexual Offender

Key Registration Component:
Offenders and predators must register in person twice a year (birth month and six months following) to the local Sheriff's Office or FDLE office.

they can collect for the police department greatly assists with their monitoring and tracking efforts.

Future Activities

In the past, the PBPD had a volunteer team that would conduct daily checks of the FDLE website and database to keep the department apprised of address changes. This activity was a tremendous help and the SCU officer is hoping to find other volunteers to assist in this capacity. Finding long-term volunteers to assist with these administrative duties would allow him to focus even more time on outreach efforts.

Lessons Learned

- The public demands information on how law enforcement agencies are tracking and monitoring sex offenders in the community. PBPD executive and command staff strongly believe that using volunteers helps to bridge this information gap.
- Maintaining open lines of communication with neighboring jurisdictions and corrections officials has led to increased accuracy of address and registration information for the police department.

Contact Information

Officer Dan Fisher

Phone: 321-409-7155 • Email: fished@pbfl.org

<http://www.palmbayflorida.org>

St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office (Florida) Address Verifications: Augmenting Efforts and Increasing Consistency

Agency Profile

- County Population Served: 226,800
- Sworn Employees: 223
- Number of Registered Offenders: 397
- Departmental Unit: Criminal Investigations Division

Assessing the Need

In 1997, the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office (SLCSO) implemented a program for registering and tracking sexual offenders and predators living in St. Lucie County. In 2005, after Florida passed the Jessica Lunsford Act (JLA), the sheriff's office entered into a memorandum of understanding with the city police departments within St. Lucie County to further strengthen sex offender management efforts. Under the JLA, county and local law enforcement agencies are required to conduct address verifications of registered sex offenders "who are not under the care, custody, control, or supervision of the Department of Corrections." With sworn staff facing an increasing workload and responsibilities, volunteer members of the SLCSO's Reserve Officer Program were tapped to provide valuable assistance, augmenting existing address verification efforts.

Operational Response

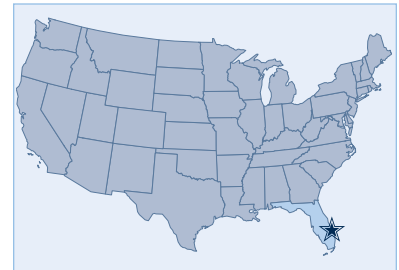
Reserve Officer Program

The SLCSO Reserve Officer Program has existed since 1960. Under the road patrol unit, reserve officers are generally used for road patrol and traffic support. SLCSO Reserves represent a diverse cross section of community; members include attorneys, prosecutors, and bank executives. Their commitment level is high and they bring added skills to the sheriff's office. Reserves have powers of arrest, wear distinctive uniforms, and drive marked units.

Address Verification Checks

On a quarterly basis, the SLCSO and partnering agencies conduct large scale address verifications of registered sex offenders. When these verifications occur, reserve officers are assigned by zones, work in pairs, and receive a certain block of addresses to verify. They are supplied with a map, a notification flier with a photo of the offender, and an address verification form. The reserve officers record any witness statements, vehicles present, changes in the offender's appearance, and mark relevant changes or comments on the address verification form which is returned to the detective in charge of the sex offender unit.

All reserves receive mandatory training but if they elect to participate with the verification checks, they receive additional training. Safety precautions instruct reserve officers not to approach any residence if they feel uncomfortable. The presence of both sworn and reserve



State Sex Offender Registry:
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
<http://www.floridasexoffender.net>

Classification System:
■ Sexual Predator
■ Sexual Offender

Key Registration Components:
Offenders and predators must register in person twice a year (birth month and six months following) to the local Sheriff's Office or FDLE office.

officers conducting these checks has helped the community see that local law enforcement is working to hold offender's accountable and to monitor sex offenders in their community.

Lessons Learned

- Ensuring that reserves understand sex offender registration requirements is one important aspect of training. While they will not be expected to know the law in detail, they must be familiar with basic requirements.
- Capturing as much information as possible from the registered offender or neighbor is crucial for writing arrest warrants and supporting failure to register prosecutions.
- Agencies need to have a policy in place to support sex offender management activities.

Contact Information

Detective Suzanne Woodward

Phone: 772-462-3620 • Email: woodwards@stluciesheriff.com

<http://www.stluciesheriff.com/>

Spokane County Sheriff's Office (Washington) Expanding Community Notification

Agency Profile

- County Population Served: 220,000
- Sworn Employees: 238 (not including jail deputies)
- Number of Registered Sex Offenders: 1490 (564 in county, 926 in City)
- Departmental Unit: Sexual Assault Unit-Investigative Division

Assessing the Need

The Sexual Assault Unit sergeant is responsible for Spokane County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) Sex Offender Registration Program. To assist the agency with community notification requirements, the office has drawn on its solid base of SCOPE (Sheriff Community Oriented Policing Effort) volunteers to help disseminate community notification fliers.

Operational Response

Sheriff Community Oriented Policing Effort (SCOPE) Volunteers

SCOPE members are volunteers who perform and conduct a variety of services and safety programs in partnership with the Spokane County Sheriff's Office. Through this partnership, various services are provided at fifteen different SCOPE stations embedded throughout the community. Examples of services and programs include: business prowl checks, victim call backs, incident response teams, Operation Family ID, Citizens on Patrol, and the dissemination of community notification fliers.

The Sexual Assault Unit sergeant creates notification fliers for Level 2 and Level 3 registered sex offenders. The fliers include:

- Name, address, and physical description of the offender;
- A photo;
- Basic information about the offense;
- Whether or not the offender is under any type of formal supervision; and
- Basic information about the victim (age and gender).

When an offender moves into a neighborhood, notification fliers are given to the nearest SCOPE station. In pairs of two, volunteers distribute the fliers in a two block radius of the offender's residence. Fliers are also handed out to neighboring schools, daycares, businesses, and organizations that primarily serve children, women, and vulnerable adults.



State Sex Offender Registry:

The registry is kept by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) through the Washington State Patrol <http://ml.waspc.org/>

Classification System:

- Level 3 High Risk
- Level 2 Moderate Risk
- Level 1 Low Risk

Key Registration Components:

For all qualifying offenses, sex offenders are required to register in person at the Sheriff's office in the county of their residence. The duration of an offender's duty to register is based upon the original offense.

Benefits

Community members have vocalized their appreciation of the sheriff's office notification efforts. The SCOPE volunteers are a visual extension of the law enforcement presence in the neighborhoods; neighbors know that they can approach the SCOPE volunteers with questions and ask for information. Lastly, the department believes that disseminating information to the public enforces the message to offenders that they are being monitored.

Future Activities

The sergeant is considering using volunteers to assist with transferring old paper files into a digital format; the digital files will help increase the efficiency of the Sheriff's registration, tracking, and monitoring efforts.

Lessons Learned

- The SCOPE volunteers are a visual extension of the law enforcement presence in the neighborhoods; neighbors know that they can approach the SCOPE volunteers with questions and ask for information.

Contact Information

Sergeant Dave Van Wormer

Phone: 509-477-6920 • Email: dvanwormer@spokanesherriff.org

<http://www.spokanesherriff.org/>

SECTION IV

ASSISTANCE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

In January 2006, the Washington State Institute for Public Policy released a series of reports that examined the impact and effectiveness of the state's current sex offender sentencing policies.¹² Noting the justice system complexity surrounding sex offenders, these reports cover multiple issues including measuring recidivism, community notification legislation, notification levels, and non-compliance (i.e., failure to register). The study underscores the pressing need for a much broader and extensive understanding of law enforcement's capability to effectively monitor and track sex offenders in the community.

It is clear that law enforcement faces significant challenges stemming from legislative changes that greatly increase the number of registered sex offenders. Further, and perhaps more important, these changes could impact the number and probability of potential absconders. The IACP, in partnership with the BJA, are working to understand these challenges and to offer potential solutions.

Information gathered from our present effort provides a glimpse into the policy and operational needs of the field. To supplement this effort, the IACP will further examine the role of law enforcement in managing sex offenders. Our goal will be to assist law enforcement to reduce disorder and victimization through an increased ability to register, track, and monitor both registered and unregistered sex offenders.

Through our continued and expanded efforts, the IACP will:

- **Analyze the challenges facing state, local and tribal law enforcement regarding sex offender management by:**
 - Gauging our membership's needs, challenges and successes through a survey.
 - Conducting site visits to law enforcement agencies employing leading approaches that have increased their capacity to register, monitor, and track sex offenders.
 - Convening a focus group with law enforcement executives to address identified needs and provide guidance on developing future resources and products.

- **Partner with the American Probation and Parole Association to examine innovative information sharing practices between police and correctional agencies.**
- **Create a model policy in partnership with IACP's National Law Enforcement Policy Center.**
- **Develop and disseminate a second, and complementary, resource guide focused on highlighting leading practice information.**

As outlined in the Citizen Support and National Initiatives sections, much has been accomplished at all levels of government to create better systems and strategies to monitor and track sex offenders, but a rapidly changing landscape dictates that more changes will occur. There is a need to develop more interagency approaches and/or find alternative resources, such as citizen volunteers, to support law enforcement's mandated activities. As heightened awareness continues to grow and as Federal, state and local governments begin to craft new or change existing sex offender laws, it is evident that the role law enforcement can and will be required to play is paramount.

SECTION V

NATIONAL INITIATIVES AND OTHER RESOURCE MATERIALS

The following section features national initiatives that seek to increase law enforcement's ability to prevent, reduce, investigate, and prosecute crimes committed by sex offenders. Many of these initiatives also serve to educate the general public on the reality of sex offenses and sex offenders and to offer proactive measures that individuals, parents, and others can take to protect themselves and their children.

- Bureau of Justice Assistance, Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management Discretionary Grant Program (CASOM)
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/>

Since 2003, the CASOM program has provided funding to help jurisdictions effectively manage sex offenders in the community by implementing new or enhancing existing programs that focus on increasing public safety and reducing future victimization. Law enforcement agencies are required partners for any organization receiving these discretionary funds.

- Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) National Sex Offender Registry Assistance Program (NSOR-AP)

Initially offered in 1998, this program was designed to provide funding to help state sex offender registries identify, collect, and properly disseminate relevant, consistent, and accurate information to state and local public safety entities.

- Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM)
<http://www.csom.org/>

Established in June 1997, CSOM is a collaborative effort between the Office of Justice Programs, the National Institute of Corrections, the State Justice Institute, and the American Probation and Parole Association. CSOM's goal is "to enhance public safety by preventing further victimization through improving the management of adult and juvenile sex offenders who are in the community." The organization offers a variety of resources on a wide range of issues surrounding sex offender management. CSOM offers a training curriculum focused on educating the community about sex offender management. Publications and resources are geared toward multiple stakeholders involved in sex offender management nationwide.

- Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Operation Predator
<http://www.ice.gov>

Since its creation in July 2003, Operation Predator has arrested more than 6,500 child predators nationwide.¹³ Operation Predator focuses its investigative and enforcement efforts on safeguarding children from foreign national sex offenders, human traffickers, international sex tourists, and child pornographers. Some local police departments work closely with Operation Predator agents. For example, the El Paso Police Department's Sex Offender Registration and Tracking Unit works with Operation Predator agents in support of their local agency efforts to monitor and track sex offenders. *For more information on the El Paso Police Department's SORT Unit, see the Current State of Practice: Examples from Law Enforcement section.*

- International Association of Chiefs of Police, Volunteers in Police Service Program
<http://www.policevolunteers.org>

Since 2002, the IACP has managed the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program in partnership with and on behalf of the White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps and BJA. The program's goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. The VIPS Program offers law enforcement agencies training, technical assistance, videos, publications, and other resources to assist in establishing or expanding a law enforcement volunteer program.

- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
<http://www.missingkids.com/>

NCMEC is a non-profit organization that raises awareness on preventing child abductions, molestation, and sexual exploitation. This organization provides training and technical assistance to individuals and law enforcement agencies in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases involving missing and sexually exploited children.

- National Sex Offender Public Registry (NSOPR)
<http://www.nsopr.gov>

Launched on July 20, 2005 and coordinated by the Department of Justice, the NSOPR is a cooperative effort between state and territory public safety agencies hosting public sexual offender registries. This searchable web site is a tool that allows anyone to obtain information about sex offenders through a number of search options. All states are linked to the national registry. Future goals include developing mapping capabilities, regional searches, and offering radius searches by zip code.

- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program
<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/>

The OJJDP ICAC program helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop effective responses to cyber enticement and child pornography cases. This help encompasses forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community education.

- United States Attorney General's Office, Project Safe Childhood
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/>

Launched in May 2006, Project Safe Childhood is a federal initiative designed to assist law enforcement and other community leaders to develop a coordinated strategy to prevent, investigate, and prosecute online sexual victimization of children. This initiative brings together NCMEC, ICE, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Secret Service, and other federal agencies.

End Notes

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RESOURCE MATERIALS

Baltimore County Police Department

Baltimore County Police Department SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION TEAM COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

On October 1, 1995, a law regarding the Child Sexual Offenders Notification and Registration went into effect. On October 13, 1995, Special Order #4-95 was published.

On June 30, 2004, Standard Operating Procedure (S.O.P.) #04-3 was issued regarding Child Sex Offender (CSO) Registration in Baltimore County. CSO's must register in person annually.

Sexual Violent Offenders (SVO) and Sexual Violent Predators (SVP) are supervised by the state of Maryland and may register their change of address or verify their present address by mail, with a registration renewal card. SVO's must register annually. SVP's must register every 90 days. All offenders must register a change of address within 7 days of the change. 14 days if out of state.

All sexual offenders appearing at a Baltimore County Police Precinct shall be registered using a registration packet. The offender is required to sign a Sex Offender Registry Unit Registration Form, and two copies of the Baltimore County Police Notice of Registration and Requirements Forms.

The Sex Offender Registration Team (SORT) has been moved from Central Records to the 10th floor with the Criminal Investigation Division. SORT is staffed by a PSO and 1 detective and supervised by the Sex Crimes Unit (SCU) corporal.

The PSO is responsible for coordinating and maintaining sex offender registration program and files. PSO duties include:

Collecting arrest reports and registrations for 1st time Child Sex Offenders from Central Records and the state of Maryland.

Preparing case folders to track Baltimore County resident offenders.

Preparing renewal notices for mailing to offenders.

Preparing notification letters for community leaders, local schools, and precincts.

Answering telephone inquiries from the public regarding all aspects of the registration program.

Contacting Parole & Probation (P&P) agents for offender information and photographs.

Conducting computer searches on sex offenders for history and addresses.

Reviewing registrations for completion and entry into In Pursuit and local database.

Checking the Maryland Sex Offender Registry (MSOR) database for registration Anniversaries and wanted subjects.

Interfacing with personnel from the MSOR for updated sex offender information to include updated home addresses, non-compliant offenders, and offenders no longer in Baltimore County.

Notifies the Parole and Probation agent, and Sex Crimes Unit supervisor if a sex Offender is found to be non-compliant.

The PSO provides the SCU supervisor with an investigation packet of the non-compliant offender. The packet may consist of a combination of the following checks: Wage records, property records, MVA, CJIS, In Pursuit, telephone numbers, mail cover, and/or Accurint (credit bureau).

In preparation for sex offender violation court cases, the PSO will prepare the following documentation for sex offender registration violation cases:

- True test copies of the initial conviction
- A signed sex offense registration form
- Renewal notification letters
- Contact attempts on CSO/SVO/SVP's

The PSO will produce the case folder for court and will testify as necessary.

The PSO prepares statistics related to sex offender registration for management as needed.

Attends meetings of the Sex Offender Containment Team (SOCT) when possible and any other training deemed necessary to the position.

SCU supervisor manages the Team and duties include:

Reviewing documentation on non-compliant sex offenders to determine if further investigation is warranted. Prepare a case folder for the supervisor's Sex Offender File.

Insure that the registration violation is documented on a form 10 and that an application for an arrest warrant is completed and presented to a court commissioner. Review and approve reports as needed.

Insure that the warrant is logged into Central Records, entered into NCIC (denoting unlimited extradition status).

Provide a copy to the PSO, and the Career Criminal Unit (CCU).

Supervise team members and review registration cases and investigations.

Assign personnel to make contact with selected CSO/SVO/SVP's and spot check their address for compliance.

Attend SOCT meetings when possible and arrange training for unit personnel.

Provide training on Sex Offender Registration for district personnel as needed.

Detective(s) assigned to the unit shall:

Review assigned cases and attempt to contact the offenders. (CSO's report in person, SVO's and SVP's may report by mail). For offenders that cannot be located, prepare an application and present to the supervisor for review. Approved applications are presented to the Towson District Court Commissioner for arrest warrants.

Document all (attempt to locate) investigations on a form #47.

Document Sex Offender Registration Violations on a form #10.

If an SVO or SVP was contacted by telephone or in person, complete an Address Verification Card only. Forward the card to the PSO and notify the supervisor.

Assist precinct personnel with training regarding Sex Offender Registrations.

Attend court and training classes as needed.

Buffalo Police Department

Sexual Predator Information

*Brought to you by the Buffalo
Police Department in
conjunction with the Citizen
Advisory Group-to the Police
Commissioner and the Citizen
Preparedness Centers.*

What is the definition of a sexual predator?

Sexual Offenders, upon conviction of the following crimes against children*:

Rape, criminal sexual acts, sexual abuse, incest, promoting sexual conduct with children, child prostitution, unlawful surveillance, unlawful imprisonment, forcible touching, dissemination of indecent materials, child pornography and sexual exploitation are required to register with New York State as Sex Offenders.

*Children's ages- law varies on age of children for some of these crimes.

There are three levels of Sex Offenders-

Level 1-(low risk of repeat offense)

Level 2-(moderate risk of repeat offense)

Level 3-(high risk of repeat offense and a threat to public safety exists)

Sex Offenders who have been designated a *sexual predator, a sexually violent offender or a predicate sex offender*, must register for life. Failure to register is a crime punishable as a class A misdemeanor for a first conviction and a class D felony for a second conviction. In January 2006 Gov. Pataki signed into law a bill that requires Level 3 offenders to register for life.

NOTE- In 2005 the City of Buffalo Common Council adopted an amendment to Chapter 299 Obscenity Law.

The amendment restricts convicted sexual offenders from living near areas where children regularly meet and congregate, specifically within 1,500 feet of real property of any school, park playground or day care center in the city of Buffalo.

How do I find out if someone is a registered sex offender?

*Via Telephone-

New York State Sexual Offender Registry- 1-800-262-3257 (free)

Callers must have the name of the individual and or least one of the following indicators:

- the individuals exact address including street and/or apt. number
- the individuals date of birth
- the individual's social security number
- the individuals drivers license number

* Via the Internet-

<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/nsor/search-index.htm>

* Other Information/Resources

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children-
<http://www.missingkids.com>

AMBER Alert:
<http://www.amberalert.gov>

CODE ADAM- Via Attorney General Elliot Spitzer, training program for retailers, police and child care advocates- contact the AG's office at (212) 416-8050.

WARNING_ DO NOT HARRASS, THREATEN OR APPROACH CONVICTED SEX OFFENDERS. ANY PROBLEMS, SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR OR OTHER ISSUES MUST BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT ONCE!

What resources are available in Buffalo?

Buffalo Police Department- Sex Offense Squad- 851-4494

Buffalo Police Districts

A District 851-4409
1847 South Park Avenue

B District 851-4403
695 Main Street

C District 851-4412
693 East Ferry

D District 851-4413
669 Hertel Avenue

E District 851-4416
2767 Bailey Avenue

City of Buffalo Common Council Districts

South District 851-5169

North District 851-5116

University District 851-5165

Lovejoy District 851-5151

Fillmore District 851-4138

Ellicott District 851-4980

Masten District 851-5145

Niagara District 851-5125

SAFETY TIPS

1. Always know the whereabouts of your child/children, who their friends are and where they live with contact information. Instruct them to stay on main roads, avoid shortcuts and not cut through alleyways or yards when walking or riding bikes. Do not put children's names in plain view on exterior clothing or backpacks.

2. Teach your child how to call 911 and make them memorize their address, telephone number and area code. Make sure that your child always has a few quarters with them for pay phones.

3. Your child's school should have clear and concise instructions on whom a child can be released to. This should be updated as soon as a change occurs. They should carry a family contact card in their back packs.

4. Teach your child a "code word" that only you and they know. If someone approaches them and says that their parents sent them to pick them up, and the adult doesn't have the code word, then the child should not go with them under any circumstances. The child should run to safe place (back in school) and report the incident. Tell them that it is ok to scream and fight back if someone grabs them.

5. Do not allow your children to go anywhere alone. Always use the buddy system. Tell them that some adults may try to enlist their help with lies such as finding a lost pet- tell them that the adult is really just trying to get them into their car and that if they do they may get hurt or lost.

Safety Tips (continued)

6. Computers should be in plain view of parents. Filters should be installed on all electronics. Strict rules of use should be established and adhered to. One of the most important rules to establish is that the child is not to provide any personal information about themselves or the family over the internet or telephone. Educate them that in cyber space adults may pretend to be kids and if they get your personal information they may try to hurt you. There are "popular" websites for preteens and teens where they can post their personal profiles. This information could prove very dangerous in the wrong hands. It only takes a minute to get an internet map to your door once someone has your address. Make sure you can access your child's computer, email, etc. Make computer use a privilege and unplug it for infractions.

7. Teach your children to never answer the door to strangers or let them inside the home.

8. Check your child's room on a regular basis. Look for new and expensive items that you did not purchase for them. Demand an explanation. (Child predators often build up trust by sending or giving their intended victims gifts).

9. Make sure your children have an alternative mutually agreed upon "safe place" that they can go if they can't get into their own home. A trusted neighbor, relative, library, church, community center, business, etc. can all be designated as a place where a child could go and wait at.

10. Use the "Check First" rule- children must check with their parents/guardian FIRST before going anywhere or getting into a car, or before accepting anything from anyone even if it's someone they know.

Bellevue Police Department

Bellevue Police Department (Washington) Volunteer Position Description

JOB TITLE:	Sex Offender Scoring Analyst
FUNCTION:	Assign risk-to-reoffend level (I, II, or III) for sex offenders living in Bellevue
REPORTS TO:	Crime Analysis Detective
DESCRIPTION:	Using standard guidelines, review background, history and documentation on each sex offender who registers within Bellevue city limits. Assign as Level I, II or III and pass paperwork on to CA detective for final review and approval
QUALIFICATIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to maintain strict confidentiality Ability to adhere to and accurately interpret established rating guidelines and procedures Suitable emotional maturity and stability to deal with difficult and disturbing material Ability to successfully complete required background investigation
TRAINING:	Ongoing job training by Crime Analysis Detective
MINIMUM TIME COMMITMENT:	Intermittent as needed.

DTD 09/05
UPDTD 07/06

Palm Bay Police Department



The goal of the Sex Offender Unit of the Palm Bay Police Department is to ensure the safety of our residents by properly monitoring registered sex offenders and predators. As part of our goal, we want to provide you with the fastest, most accurate way to locate sexual offenders and predators living in your area. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement maintains the Florida Sexual Offenders and Predators Web site, providing citizens with the most up to date information of all sexual offenders and predators living in the state of Florida. By accessing the below Web site, you are provided with important information on all registered sexual offenders and predators, highlights of the new *Jessica Lunsford Act*; Safety Tips, a toll-free number for public access to the FDLE Sexual Offender Unit, and other valuable information.




<http://www.floridasexoffender.net/>

The Sex Offender Unit of the Palm Bay Police Department strives to continually educate the public on the importance of safety regarding sexual offenders and predators. The Sex Offender Unit meets with schools, civic and community groups, neighborhood groups and individuals. If you are interested in having an officer speak about sexual offenders and predators, please contact:

Officer Dan Fisher, Sex Offender Unit
Palm Bay Police Department
Phone Number: (321) 409-7155
Email: fished@pbfl.org

St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office

ST. LUCIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

	Supersedes: G.O. 29.02 (09/01/03)	Effective: July 1, 2004	General Order: 29.02
		Title: Sexual Predators and Offenders	
	Accreditation Standards: CFA • •28.05, 28.06 CALEA • •55.2.2 FCAC • •	Attachments: FCN: 377, 378	

CONTENTS: This order consists of the following numbered sections:

- I. SEXUAL PREDATOR/OFFENDER
- II. REGISTRATION
- III. NOTIFICATION
- IV. OUT OF STATE SEXUAL PREDATORS AND OFFENDERS
- V. FOLLOW-UP
- VI. GLOSSARY

PURPOSE: The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines to ensure compliance with statutory requirements set forth regarding Sexual Predators, Sexual Offenders, and Career Offenders.

SCOPE: This order applies to effected members within the Criminal Investigations Division (CID).

DISCUSSION: The Sheriff's Office will ensure compliance with the Florida Sexual Predators Act F.S. 775.21, Sexual Offenders Required to Register F.S. 943.0435, and the Florida Career Offender Registration Act F.S. 775.261. These procedures will cover early notification from Florida Department of Corrections (DOC), registration, public notification, follow-up, and the responsible components within the organization whose job it will be to assure all necessary, appropriate, and mandatory requirements are met.

PROCEDURE:

- I. **SEXUAL PREDATOR/OFFENDER:** Upon receipt of notification from Department of Corrections of the pending release of a Sexual Predator, Sexual Offender, or Career Offender, a detective from the Criminal Investigations Division will be assigned and responsible for the following:
 - A. Determine if the subject is still incarcerated or released.
 - B. If still incarcerated, obtain an expected release date. The detective will check the release status of the subject periodically until such time of his/her release.
 - C. All inquires described above will be entered on the individual subjects log (FCN 377), which will be maintained in the Criminal Investigations Division.
 - D. If the subject has been released and has indicated he/she plans to reside in St. Lucie County, the detective will determine if the subject has registered with the Sheriff's Office or Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).
 - E. If the subject has registered, then the information must be verified by the detective who will physically respond to the listed address.

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- F.** Once verification has been made, the community notification will be done by the Criminal Investigations Division as indicated in the notification section.
- G.** If the subject has not registered in the allowable forty-eight (48) hours after taking up temporary or permanent residence, the detective will attempt to contact the subject at the location provided.
- H.** If the subject is located at the residence, law enforcement is authorized by statute to take the subject into custody charging the offender with a third degree felony under F.S. 775.21(9) pertaining to a Sexual Offender or Predator and F.S. 775.082, 772.083, or 775.084 regarding a Career Offender.
- I.** If the subject does live at the listed address, but is not home, and has failed to register with the FDLE or the Sheriff's Office, the detective will file an affidavit with the State Attorney's Office for the issuance of a warrant, and make reasonable efforts to locate and apprehend.
- J.** If the subject has moved from or does not live at the location provided and has failed to register with FDLE or the Sheriff's Office, the detective will file an affidavit with the State Attorney's Office for the issuance of a warrant, and make reasonable efforts to locate and apprehend.
- K.** Sexual Predators, Sexual Offenders, and Career Offenders are not required by law to register with the Sheriff's Office if they are in the custody of DOC. If they are in the custody of DOC, the responsibility lies with that agency.
- L.** If the offender is under control of DOC, and is residing in St. Lucie County, DOC will direct the offender to register with the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office will then forward that information to FDLE. At that time, the Sheriff's Office will make community notification as required.
- M.** Once information regarding the offender has been received by the Sheriff's Office from FDLE, the detective will follow the same verification and subsequent follow-up procedures.
- N.** After initial registration with DOC/FDLE or the Sheriff, anytime an offender changes address, he or she must appear in person within forty-eight (48) hours at a Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle (DHSMV) office and obtain a new Florida drivers license or identification card with a photo. Failure of the offender to do so is a third degree felony. They are NOT REQUIRED to notify the Sheriff's Office of the new address, because that notification will come from FDLE.
- O.** Once notified by FDLE of a change of address, the detective will again follow all verification, community notification, and follow-up procedures.
- P.** All the above, including dates, times, how the community was notified, etc., will be entered into the the HTE database and maintained in CID.

II. REGISTRATION:

- A.** The registration of all Sexual Predators, Sexual Offenders, and Career Offenders will be accomplished at the Sheriff's Office Administrative Building by the Criminal Investigations Division.

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- B.** Members within the division assigned the registration task will complete the forms provided by FDLE, forwarding a copy to the assigned detective.
- C.** The subject will be interviewed to insure appropriate information is obtained and correct, along with being fingerprinted and photographed by Technical Services personnel.
- D.** All required information will be forwarded to FDLE with copies maintained in the subject's file within CID.
- E.** Within two (2) working days, the detective will follow the residency verification procedure established above.
- F.** If it is determined that the subject has lied about his residence, the detective will secure a warrant through the State Attorney's Office.
- G.** If verification is made through the residence check, the community notification process will be initiated by CID.
- H.** All information obtained on any of the offenders will be submitted to FDLE by either entry onto FDLE secure website on CJNET ("Address Verification Online"), by phone, or by email correspondence.

III. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:

- A.** After the registration and verification process has been completed community notification will be made as follows:
 - 1.** Within forty-eight (48) hours after receiving notification of the presence of a sexual predator, the Sheriff, or his designee, where the sexual predator temporarily or permanently resides, will notify each licensed day care center, elementary school, middle school, and high school within a one mile radius of the temporary or permanent residence of the sexual predator of the presence of the sexual predator.
 - 2.** Businesses and residences within a one mile radius of the sexual predator's residence will be notified utilizing the Reverse 911 system.
 - 3.** For additional public notification and information, the Sheriff's Office will maintain a link on the agency web site to the FDLE database of sexual predators and sexual offenders.
- B.** A copy of the community notification will be placed in the subject's file.

IV. OUT OF STATE SEXUAL PREDATORS AND OFFENDERS:**A. Registration:**

- 1.** Any person who resides in Florida and has been designated a sexual predator, sexual offender, or some other sexually related category in another state, is required to register in Florida, if that state requires registration and/or public notification. The person will be registered in St. Lucie County and classified as a sexual offender.

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2. Any person who resides in Florida and has been designated as a habitual violent offender, a violent career criminal, or a 3-time violent felony offender under F.S. 775.084 or as a prison releasee reoffender under F.S. 775.082 (9) must register as required under F.S. 944.608.

B. Failure to Register: The assigned detective will be notified with any information (anonymous or documented) received on an out of state offender who is living in St. Lucie County and has failed to register.

1. **Status Verification:** The detective will verify the offender's status and registration requirement and conduct an active investigation.

2. **Investigation:** The detective will contact the offender in person and will:

- a. Inform him or her of the registration requirement. *(The offender must register with FDLE or the agency, and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles within forty-eight (48) hours of notification.)*
- b. Document the contact in an Offense Incident report.
- c. Complete a follow-up investigation after the forty-eight (48) hour time limit has expired.
- d. Arrest the offender for failure to register, if applicable, under F.S. 943.0435 or F.S. 944.608.

V. FOLLOW-UP:

- A. The assigned detective will maintain a file on each known and registered sexual offender, sexual predator, and career offender within St. Lucie County.
- B. The detective will make periodic checks on each subject on file to ensure the subject is in compliance with statutory requirements.
- C. If any subject is found to be in violation, the detective will file for a warrant with the State Attorney's Office and make reasonable efforts to locate and apprehend.

VI. GLOSSARY:

CAREER OFFENDER - Any person who is designated as a habitual violent felony offender, a violent career criminal, or a three-time violent felony offender under F.S. 775.084 or as a prison releasee reoffender under F.S. 775.082 (9).

CONVICTED - A determination of guilt as a result of a trial or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld. A conviction for a similar offense includes, but is not limited to, a conviction by a Federal or military tribunal, including courts-marshal conducted by the Armed Forces of the United States, and includes a conviction in any state of the United States or other jurisdiction.

SEXUAL OFFENDER - A person convicted of committing, attempting, conspiring or soliciting to commit any violations as defined by F.S. 943.0435, and who is released on or after Oct. 1st, 1997 from the sanction imposed by reason of conviction of his/her sexual offender offense.

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SEXUAL PREDATOR - A person who has committed one of several "one is enough" sexual predator offense as defined by law; (Chapter 97-299 & F.S. 775.21) or any person who has committed a "second offense" sexual predator offense or a listed sexual offense after having been previously been found, to have committed certain other listed sexual offenses as defined in the statutes.

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DRAFTED BY: sdw/lkt June 15, 2004



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