



# Washington Association of **SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS**

## Search for Offenders

- Washington Sex Offender Public Registry: [www.wasor.org](http://www.wasor.org)
- National Sex Offender Public Website: [www.nsopw.gov](http://www.nsopw.gov)

## Washington Sex Offender Registry



For more than 30 years, Washington State has required persons (adults and juveniles) who have been convicted of any sex or kidnapping offense to register their address, place of employment or school with law enforcement. The information is provided through a searchable website that includes the ability to register for email alerts. The Washington Sex Offender Public Registry (WASOR) is a state funded program administered by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). The following is a brief summary of the Washington Sex Offender Public Registry program and resources for more information.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is a registered sex offender?

Sex offenders are juveniles or adults who have been convicted of a Class A, Class B, Class C felony or some gross misdemeanor sex offenses and are required to register for life, fifteen years, and ten years, respectively.<sup>1</sup>

### 2. What do the levels mean?

Sex offender levels are determined by consideration of several factors about the offender and the nature of their offense(s). Adult and juvenile offenders are assigned risk level classification for purposes of community notification by law enforcement.

LEVEL 	RISK 	INFORMATION 
I	Low risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large.	Generally not published on the <a href="#">Washington Sex Offender Public Registry</a> (unless they are out of compliance with registration requirements or registered as transient). Contact local law enforcement for specific information.
II	Moderate risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large.	<a href="#">Washington Sex Offender Public Registry</a>
III	High risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large.	<a href="#">Washington Sex Offender Public Registry</a>

### 3. Do offenders have restrictions on where they can live?

It depends on whether the offender is under supervision by the Department of Corrections, Juvenile Rehabilitation, or county probation. If offenders are under supervision, they can have certain limitations or restrictions placed on them by the Department of Corrections or the sentencing court upon their release from incarceration. These may include residency restrictions, not being around children, having a curfew, or not drinking alcohol or taking drugs. If they are found to be in violation of their restrictions, they may be sent back to jail or to prison. **Offenders who have completed their time under supervision can live where they choose without restrictions.**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Registration laws are covered in [RCW 9A.44.130](#). For the definition of sex offense convictions that require registration see [RCW 9A.44.128](#).

<sup>2</sup>Contact your local [Department of Corrections](#) office to inquire if an individual is still under supervision. [RCW 9.94A.8554](#) covers Community Protection Zones. In 2014 the Sex Offender Policy Board conducted a study on the policies related to the release and housing of sex offenders.

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## Frequently Asked Questions



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### 4. I know someone is a sex offender, why aren't they on the website?

Washington state just publishes Level II, III and non-compliant or transient Level I offenders. If you are looking for information on a specific offender not published on the website, you can contact your local Sheriff's office. They can provide you with information on specific Level I offenders.

### 5. Can convicted sex offender utilize social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat or Instagram?

It depends on whether the offender is under supervision by the Department of Corrections, Juvenile Rehabilitation, or county probation. If offenders are under supervision, they can have certain limitations or restrictions placed on them by the Department of Corrections or the sentencing court upon their release from incarceration. These may include restrictions on their ability to access social media or other internet sites, though sex offenders generally have the same 1st amendment rights as the general public.

### 6. What do I do if I see an offender doing something I think is suspicious?

Call your local police department or sheriff's office and report suspicious activity. It is best to let law enforcement handle the situation rather than taking it into your own hands. You may send information on specific offenders directly to law enforcement by clicking the "submit a tip or correction for this offender" button on the [Washington Sex Offender Public Registry](#).

### 7. What about confronting the offender myself?

Experts believe sex offenders are less likely to re-offend if they live and work in an environment free of harassment. Any unlawful actions taken against the individual named in the notification, including vandalism of property, verbal, or written threats of harm, or physical violence against this person, his or her family, or employer, may result in your arrest and prosecution for criminal acts. This information cannot be used in any way to threaten, intimidate, or harass registered offenders.

### 8. These notifications disturb me and my family, we are worried.

People respond in many different ways to receiving a sex offender notification. It is normal to feel upset, angry, and worried about a sex offender living in your community. The law was created to inform the public when a Level II or Level III sex offender moves into the community and to provide the community with education and resources.

### 9. How can I talk to children about sex offender notification?

Talk with children in a calm way about the individual named on the notification flyer. Open communication with children is a parent's number one safety tool. For more information on talking with

- [Polly Klass Foundation](#)
- [National Sex Offender Public Website: How to Prevent](#)
- [KidSmartz](#)
- [Office of Crime Victims Advocacy: Crime Victim Resource Guide](#)
- [Kids Live Safe](#)
- [Stop It Now!](#)
- [Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs](#)
- [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: NetSmartz](#)
- [Child Rescue Coalition](#)

### 10. Where can I find more information about Washington's Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) laws?

- [Chapter RCW 71.09](#) covers the laws that pertain to SVP civil commitment in Washington State.
- For information on civil commitment: [Washington Department of Corrections, End of Sentence Review Committee](#)
- For information on who represents the State: [Washington State Office of the Attorney General's Office, Sexually Violent Predators](#)
- For information about where SVPs are confined: [Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Special Commitment Center](#)

### 11. Where can I view responses to additional frequently asked questions, including information about community notification meetings?

- Additional information can be found under the links section on the [Washington State Sex Offender Registry](#).