**CLASSIFICATION OF SEX OFFENDERS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What do the sex offender levels mean?**

Sex offender levels are determined by taking into account several factors about the offender and the nature of his or her crime in order to determine possible risks to the general public.

Washington state sex offender laws apply to juvenile as well as adult sex offenders. Adult and juvenile offenders are:

Subject to civil commitment if judged to be a sexually violent predator
Required to register with law enforcement when released to the community
Assigned risk level classification for purposes of community notification by law enforcement Juvenile offenders are prohibited from enrolling in the same school as their victim or victim's siblings

**Risk Level 1**

Level 1 sex offenders present the lowest risk for re-offense to the community at large. Some sample characteristics:

These individuals normally have not exhibited predatory type characteristics
Most have successfully participated or are participating in approved sex offender treatment programs. Many are first time offenders.

You may call law enforcement to ask about a specific individual if you suspect they might be a sex offender, but the law does not mandate community notification.

**Risk Level 2**

Level 2 sex offenders generally present a moderate risk to re-offend within community at large. Some sample characteristics:

These individuals may be considered a Level 2 sex offender because of the nature of previous crime(s).

For some Level 2 sex offenders, lifestyle (drugs and alcohol use, other criminal activity) may influence their potential to re- offend.

These individuals often have; more than one victim and/or took advantage of a position of trust and authority, such as a teacher, coach, clergy, or babysitter.

**Risk Level 3**

Level 3 sex offenders pose a high risk to re-offend within the community at large. Some sample characteristics:

Most have prior sex crime convictions as well as other criminal convictions.
Some have predatory characteristics and may seek out victims unknown to the offender.
These individuals may have used violence in their crime.
These individuals may have refused or failed to complete approved sex offender treatment programs.

  

**REGISTRATION AND RESTRICTIONS OF SEX OFFENDERS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**What is a registered sex offender?**

Sex offenders are juveniles or adults who have committed a Class A, Class B, Class C felony or some gross misdemeanors are required to register for life, fifteen years, and ten years, respectively.

**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 Administration. If offenders are **under supervision** they 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.

**What do I do if I see the offender doing something I think is suspicious?**

Call local law enforcement or the sheriff's office and report it. You could also choose to share your concerns with a local school resource officer. It is best to let law enforcement handle the situation rather than taking it into your own hands. If you know an offender's specific restrictions and you witness a violation, call 911 or call the community corrections officer at the Department of Corrections.

**How do sex offenders' register? Where do sex offenders' register?**

How and when a sex offender registers is covered in the laws:
(RCW. 9A.44.130), (RCW 9A.44.135), and (RCW 9A.44.140). You can refer to the website resource table page for a link to the laws. They can be confusing. If you have a question about a particular offender's requirements, contact your local sheriff.