

Be Aware Be Proactive

Educate yourself by visiting these important and informative sites:

www.missingkids.com

www.child-law-watch.net

Also, visit "HITS" at the Washington State Attorney at General's office site:

www.wa.gov/ago/



Tip Sheet: Registered Sex Offenders

Lynnwood Police Department
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Award winning site:
www.ci.lynnwood.wa.us

Tip Sheet:

Registered Sex Offenders

*Helpful
Information
for You and Your
Community*



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What is a Registered Sex Offender?



RCW 9A.44.130 states that any adult or juvenile residing in this state who has been found to have committed or has been convicted of any sex offense shall register with the county sheriff for the county of the person's residence.

Registration is not considered added punishment. Its purpose is to regulate offenders and inform the public.

Profile of a Sex Offender

Sex offenders come from all walks of life and from all socio-economic groups. They can be male or female, rich or poor, employed or unemployed, religious or non-religious, highly educated or uneducated and from any race. They are not always involved in offenses against children.

The suspect is known to the victim in over 80% of the sex crimes. He/ she could be a parent, relative, care-taker, neighbor, co-worker or significant other. The vast majority of child molesters are adults who seduce children through subtle intimidation and persuasion.

Level Classifications

Convicted sex offenders are classified by level according to the risk they present to the community.

Level 1—Least likely to re-offend

Level 2—Moderate risk to re-offend

Level 3—Most likely to re-offend.

Community Notification



The Balancing Act.

Notification balances the public's right to know with the offender's right to be free from vigilantism.

Abuse of the information to threaten, intimidate or otherwise harass an offender could potentially end law enforcements ability to notify the public.

Information Available to the Public

In 1990 Washington State was the first in the nation to pass a community notification law.

Police agencies are authorized to release information to the public regarding sex offenders when the agency determines that disclosure of the information is relevant and necessary to protect the public and counter act the danger created by the particular offender.

The Lynnwood Police Department makes available to the public a list of the level 2 and 3 sex offenders currently registered in the city. This listing includes general areas of residence and photographs. The list is updated monthly and cannot be photo copied. Information regarding level 1 offenders may be released if you have the offender's name or if "grooming" behavior of a potential victim is suspected.

Community Notification

The Lynnwood Police Department follows state guidelines regarding community notification.

Level 1 Notification to law enforcement agencies and upon request to the community.

Level 2 and 3 Proactive to the community. This may include material printed and disseminated by the agency, community meetings and media coverage.

Federal Law



The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Registration Act.

Passed by Congress on September 1, 1994, mandates all states and territories to set up a [sex offender registration program](#) by 9/13/97.

Megan's Law:

Passed May 17, 1996, Amends Jacob Wetterling Act, mandates sex offender [community notification](#) no later than 9/13/97

Pam Lychner Act:

Passed by Congress in October 1996, mandates FBI to establish a permanent, national sex offender registry within 3 years.

State Law

State law regarding registration of Sex Offenders can be found in RCW (Revised Code of Washington) 9A.44.130

Length of Registration Requirements

The registered sex offender must register for a set period of time beginning on their release date. The length of time is based on the class of felony:

Class C felony: 10 years

Class B felony: 15 years

Class A felony: for life unless specified by the court.

If the offender is charged or convicted of any offense during their required registration period the requirement period starts over.