ADULT AND JUVENILE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS

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SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS (RCW 9A.44.130)

Since the inception of registration requirements in Washington State, many revisions have been made to strengthen the law. Future revisions can be expected. VERIFY ALL INFORMATION IN THIS SECTION BY GOING DIRECTLY TO THE RCW AT http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw or www.access.wa.gov.

WHO MUST REGISTER

Who must register: Any adult or juvenile residing, attending school, working or carrying on a vocation as articulated in RCW 9A.44.130 in the State of Washington, whether or not they have a fixed address, and who has been found to have committed or been convicted of, or found not guilty by reason of insanity under chapter 10.77 RCW of, any sex offense or kidnapping offense. For definition of covered sex offenses see RCW 9A.44.128 and 9.94A.030. In addition, effective 6/09/12, promoting prostitution in the 1st and 2nd degree is a registerable offense if the offender has a prior conviction for same.

"Sex offense" does include any out-of-state conviction for an offense for which the person would be required to register as a sex offender while residing in the state of conviction; or, if not required to register in the state of conviction, an offense that under the laws of this state would be classified as a sex offense under RCW 9A.44.128; any federal conviction classified as a sex offense under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 16911 (SORNA); any military conviction for a sex offense including sex offenses under the uniform code of military justice, as specified by the United States secretary of defense; and any conviction in a foreign country for a sex offense if it was obtained with sufficient safeguards for fundamental fairness and due process for the accused under guidelines or regulations established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 16912. Convictions in tribal courts should be treated as a foreign conviction.

"Kidnapping offense" does include any federal or out-of-state conviction for an offense for which the person would be required to register as a kidnapping offender if residing in the state of conviction; or, if not required to register in the state of conviction, an offense that under the laws of this state would be classified as a kidnapping offense under RCW 9A.44.128.

WHAT MUST BE PROVIDED AND TO WHOM

Offenders required to register must appear in person at the sheriff's office in their county of residence, or if not a Washington resident, the county of the person's school, employment or vocation or as otherwise required in 9A.44.130. The offender must provide: name and any aliases used, the complete and accurate residential address or if lacking a fixed resident where he or she plans to stay, date and place of birth, place of employment, crime for which convicted, date and place of conviction, social security number, photograph and fingerprints. All identifying information is forwarded to the Washington State Patrol for inclusion in a central registry.

A person may be required to update any of the information required as a part of the address verification program or any statutorily required notice. A photograph or fingerprints may be required to be updated at any time. Offenders who lack a fixed residence must report weekly in person to the sheriff's office in the county in which they are registered. They must keep an accurate accounting of where they stay during the week and provide it to the county sheriff upon request. The lack of a fixed residence is a factor that may be considered in determining an offender's risk level and shall make the offender subject to the disclosure of information to the public at large as per RCW 4.24.550.

"Fixed residence" means a building that a person lawfully and habitually uses as living quarters a majority of the week. "Uses as living quarters" means to conduct activities consistent with the common understanding of residing, such as sleeping; eating; keeping personal belongings; receiving mail; and paying utilities, rent, or mortgage. A nonpermanent structure including, but not limited to, a motor home, travel trailer, camper, or boat may qualify as a residence provided it lawfully and habitually used as living quarters a majority of the week, primarily kept at one location with a physical address, and the location it is kept at is either owned or rented by the person or used by the person with the permission of the owner or renter. A shelter program may qualify as a residence provided it is a shelter program designed to provide temporary living accommodations for the homeless, provides an offender with a personally assigned living space, and the offender is permitted to store belongings in the living space. (RCW 9A.44.128)

"Lacks a fixed residence" means the person does not have a living situation that meets the definition of a fixed residence and includes, but is not limited to, a shelter program designed to provide temporary living accommodations for the homeless, an outdoor sleeping location, or locations where the person does not have permission to stay. (RCW 9A.44.128)

For each of the following "business day" is defined as any day other than Saturday, Sunday, or a legal local, state, or federal holiday.

SEX OFFENDERS IN CUSTODY

Offenders who committed a sex offense on, before or after February 28, 1990, and are in custody on or after July 28, 1991 for that offense must register at the time of their release with an official designated by the incarcerating agency and within three (3) business days from the time of release with the county sheriff in the county of their residence or if the person is not a resident of Washington, the county of that person's school or place of employment.

SEX OFFENDERS NOT IN CUSTODY BUT UNDER STATE OR LOCAL JURISDICTION

Offenders who are under the jurisdiction of the indeterminate sentence review board or under active supervision by the Department of Corrections, the Department of Social and Health

Services or a local division of youth services must register within ten days of July 28, 1991. A change in supervision status of a sex offender in this subsection shall not relieve the offender of the duty to register or to reregister following a change in residence.

SEX OFFENDERS UNDER FEDERAL JURISDICTION

Offenders who were in federal custody on or after July 23, 1995, on a sex offense committed before, on, or after February 28, 1990 must register within three (3) business days from the time of release with the county sheriff in the county of their residence, or if not a resident of Washington, the county of the person's school or place of employment.

SEX OFFENDERS WHO ARE CONVICTED BUT NOT CONFINED

Offenders who were convicted of a sex offense committed on or after February 28, 1990, but who were not sentenced to serve a term of confinement immediately following sentencing, must report to the county sheriff to register within three (3) business days of being sentenced.

OFFENDERS WHO ARE NEW RESIDENTS OR RETURNING WASHINGTON STATE RESIDENTS

Sex offenders or kidnapping offenders who move to Washington State from another state or a foreign country, or are former residents and are returning to Washington State, must register within three (3) business days of establishing residence or re-establishing residence. The duty to register under this requirement applies to sex offenders convicted under the laws of another state or a foreign country, federal or military statutes, or Washington State law for offenses committed before, on or after February 28, 1990. For the purposes of this section, tribal convictions are considered as a foreign country. These out-of-state offenders are defined as sex offenders and include any federal or out-of-state conviction for an offense for which the person would be required to register as a sex offender while residing in the state of conviction; or if not required to register in the state of conviction, an offense that under the laws of Washington would be classified as a sex offense requiring registration. However, if a court in the person's state of conviction has made an individualized determination that the person should not be required to register that person is not required to register in Washington. (*Werenth fix*).

SEX OFFENDERS FOUND NOT GUILTY BY REASON OF INSANITY

Offenders who were found not guilty of a sex offense by reason of insanity and were still in the custody of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services on or after July 23, 1995, as a result of that finding, must register within three (3) days from the time of release or of receiving notice of registration requirements, with the county sheriff in the county of their residence.

OFFENDERS WHO LACK A FIXED RESIDENCE

Offenders, who meet the requirements for registration and lack a fixed residence, must register where they plan to stay with the sheriff in the county of their occupancy within three (3) business days of release or moving to a new county or within three (3) business days after ceasing to have a fixed residence. If offenders who lack a fixes address enter a different county and stay there for more than 24 hours, they must register in that county. They must also report in person to the sheriff of the county where they are registered on a weekly basis. The weekly report will be on a day specified by the country sheriff's office, and shall occur during normal business hours. The person must keep an accurate accounting of where he or she stays during the week and provide it to the county sheriff upon request. The lack of a fixed address is a factor that may be considered in determining the sex offender risk level. The lack of a fixed address also makes an offender subject to disclosure to the public at large.

OFFENDERS WHO ARE MOVING TO A NEW ADDRESS

Sex offenders who move to a new address within the same county must provide by certified mail with return receipt requested or provide in person a signed written notice of the change of address to the county sheriff within three (3) business days of moving. If they move to a new county, must register with that county sheriff within three (3) business days of moving. Registered offenders must also provide by certified mail with return receipt requested, or in person, written notice within three (3) days of the change of address in the new county to the county sheriff with whom they last registered. If they move out of Washington State, they must also send written notice within three (3) days of moving to the new state or foreign country to the county sheriff with whom they last registered.

OFFENDERS ATTENDING ANY SCHOOL OR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION OR WORKING AT HIGHER EDUCATION INTUITIONS

Under 9A.44.128 "School" means a public or private school regulated under Title 28A RCW or chapter 72.40 RCW and "Student" means a person who is enrolled, on a full-time or part-time basis, in any <u>school</u> or institution of higher education.

Law enforcement notification requirements regarding offenders attending a school or institution of higher education/employed by higher education: Upon receiving notice from a registered sex offender that he/she will be attending a school or institution of higher education or will be employed with an institution of higher education, the sheriff must promptly notify the school district and the school principal or institution's department of public safety.

The notification shall include the following: (a) Name and any aliases used; (b) complete residential address; (c) date and place of birth; (d) place of employment; (e) crime for which convicted; (f) date and place of conviction; (g) social security number; (h) photograph; and (i) risk level classification.

The sheriff shall notify the applicable school district and school principal or institution's department of public safety whenever a student's risk level classification is changed or when the sheriff receives notice there is a change in the student's address.

OFFENDERS WHO RESIDE OUTSIDE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND WORK OR ATTEND SCHOOL IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Offenders, who meet the requirements for registration and either work or attend school in Washington State, must register with the county sheriff in the county in which they work or attend school regardless of the state of residence.

OFFENDERS WHO RESIDE, WORK OR ATTEND SCHOOL OUTSIDE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Offenders must comply with the registration requirements of the state or jurisdiction in which they reside, work or attend school. If their residence, employment and/or school are in different states or jurisdictions, they must register with all states or jurisdictions.

OFFENDERS WHO APPLY TO CHANGE THEIR NAME UNDER RCW 4.24.130

Offenders who must meet the requirements of registration and who apply to change their name under RCW 4.24.130 or any other law, must submit a copy of the application to the sheriff's office of the county of their residence and to the Washington State Patrol no fewer than five (5) days before the entry of the order granting the name change. If they receive an order changing their name, they must submit a copy of the order to the country sheriff of the country of their residence and to the Washington State Patrol within three (3) days of the entry of the order.

PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER

An offender required to register for a felony sex offense who knowingly fails to comply with any of the requirements of RCW 9A.44.130 is guilty of failure to register. Failure to Register is a class C felony if: (i) It is the person's first conviction for a felony failure to register; or (ii) The person has previously been convicted of a felony failure to register as a sex offender in this state or pursuant to the laws of another state.

It is a Class B felony if a person has been convicted of a felony failure to register as a sex offender in this state or pursuant to the laws of another state on two or more prior occasions. (Note: Under the 2011 enacted legislation, It does not appear that a federal conviction for FTR qualifies under this provision, see RCW 9A.44.132).

An offender required to register for a sex offense other than a felony who knowingly fails to comply with any of the requirements of RCW 9A.44.130 is guilty of failure to register as a sex offender, a gross misdemeanor.

If the person has a duty to register for a felony kidnapping offense, the failure to register as a kidnapping offender is a class C felony. If the person has a duty to register for a kidnapping offense other than a felony, the offense of failure to register as a kidnapping offender is a gross misdemeanor.

Unless relieved of the duty to register pursuant to RCW 9A.44.141 and 9A.44.142, a violation of this section is an ongoing offense for purposes of the statute of limitations under RCW 9A.04.080. Additionally, a first conviction for FTR receives 12 months community custody while a second and subsequent get 36 months. Gross misdemeanor FTR and first felony convictions of FTR are NOT sex offenses requiring an independent registration requirement.

LENGTH OF REGISTRATION

How long registered offenders must continue to register depends upon the offense for which they were convicted and is detailed in RCW 9A.44.140. Below is a summary of that RCW. VERIFY all information in the full document.

Note: In 2011, a definition was added for "In the community" under 9A.44.128 and means residing outside of confinement or incarceration for a disqualifying offense.

Generally speaking (see limitations below): A person who is required to register under RCW 9A.44.130 may petition the superior court to be relieved of the duty to register:

(a) If the person has a duty to register for a sex offense or kidnapping offense committed when the offender was a juvenile, regardless of whether the conviction was in this state, as provided in RCW 9A.44.143;

(b) If the person is required to register for a conviction in this state and is not otherwise prohibited from petitioning for relief from registration as outlined, when the person has spent ten consecutive years in the community without being convicted of a disqualifying offense during that time period (as defined below) OR

(c) If the person is required to register for a federal or out-of-state conviction, when the person has spent fifteen consecutive years in the community without being convicted of a disqualifying offense during that time period. Note: see also RCW 9A.44.141 regarding sheriff evaluation of out of state/federal court order of relief of registration for this category of offenders, outlined below.

The following are the limitations on the above general statements regarding relief of registration: (SEE ALSO JUVENILE RELIEF OF REGISTRATION PROVISIONS BELOW)

1. If an offender has a Washington State conviction and has been determined to be a **sexually violent predator** as defined in RCW 71.09.020, or have been convicted of a Washington State sex offense or kidnapping offense that is a Class A felony,

which was committed with forcible compulsion on or after 6/8/00, they may not be relieved of the duty to register. RCW 9A.44.142

Additionally, an offender with a Washington State conviction convicted of one aggravated offense or more than one sexually violent offense, as defined in RCW 9A.44.142 and the offense or offenses were committed on or after March 12, 2002. HOWEVER, after July 1, 2012, this subsection (2)(a)(iii) of RCW 9A.44.142 has no further force and effect, permitting offenders in this category to petition for relief of registration or be relieved of registration as otherwise provided.

2. RCW 9A.44.140 provides details regarding the length of registration for various offender categories:

If the offense was a Class A felony, (or an offense listed in RCW 9A.44.142, Subsection 5), or if the offender was convicted of any sex offense or kidnapping offense and have one or more prior convictions for a sex offense or kidnapping offense, or for a person required to register for a federal or out-of-state conviction, the duty to register shall continue indefinitely. However, offenders may be relieved of the duty to register as provided in RCW 9A.44.142 or RCW 9A.44.143 (if convicted as a juvenile). RCW provides that they may petition if they have spent ten consecutive years in the community without being convicted of disqualifying offense and if the petitioner shows by clear and convincing evidence that the petitioner is sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant removal from the central registry of sex offenders and kidnapping offenders. To be relieved of the duty to register, offenders must petition the superior court of the county in which they were convicted (or, in the case of foreign, federal, military, or out-ofstate convictions, to the court in the county where the person is registered.at the time the petition is sought. Juveniles must still petition in Thurston county for relief if their conviction is out of state (due to a drafting error in the statute).

HOWEVER, after July 1, 2012, this subsection (2)(a)(iii) of RCW 9A.44.142 no longer applies, permitting offenders in this category to petition for relief of registration or be relieved of registration as otherwise provided.

If the offense was a **Class B felony**, (and the current offense is not listed in RCW 9A.44.140, Subsection 5), and the offender does not have one or more prior convictions for a sex offense or kidnapping offense, the duty to register ends fifteen years after the last date of release from confinement pursuant to the conviction, (including full-time residential treatment) or fifteen years after entry of the judgment and sentence, if the person has spent fifteen consecutive years in the community without being convicted of a disqualifying offense during that time period.. This action may be initiated by offender request or by the sheriff's office. It should be noted that after July 1, 2012 RCW 9A.44.140, Subsection 5 prohibitions no longer applies and that category of offenders may apply for or be

relived of registration as provided in that section. . (5) provisions only apply to convictions for crimes committed on or after July 22, 2001.

If the offense was a **Class C felony**, (and the current offense is not listed in RCW 9A.44.142 Subsection 5), a violation of RCW 9.68A.090 Communication with minor for immoral purposes or 9A.44.096 Sexual misconduct with a minor in the second degree, or an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a Class C felony, and the offender does have one or more prior convictions for a sex offense or kidnapping offense, they may be relieved of the duty to register by operation of law (without petition) ten years after their last release from confinement if they have spent ten consecutive years in the community without being convicted of a disqualifying offense. This action may be initiated by offender request or by the sheriff's office. It should be noted that after July 1, 2012 RCW 9A.44.140, Subsection 5 prohibitions no longer applies and that category of offenders may apply for relief of registration to the court as provided in that section. Provisions only apply to convictions for crimes committed on or after July 22, 2001.

For foreign country, federal, military, or out-of-state offenses—for a person required to register for a military, federal, out-of-country or out-of-state conviction, the duty to register shall continue indefinitely. An offender may petition the court in the county in which they reside to be relieved of the duty to register if they have been in the community for 15 consecutive years without being convicted of a disqualifying offense.

RELIEF OF REGISTRATION

Suggested criteria for a judge to use in making this determination are included in the statute. 9A.44.142

DISQUALIFYING OFFENSES

A conviction for any offense that is a felony; a sex offense as defined in this section; a crime against children or persons as defined in RCW 43.43.830(5) and 9.94A.411(2)(a); an offense with a domestic violence designation as provided in RCW 10.99.020; permitting the commercial sexual abuse of a minor as defined in RCW 9.68A.103; or any violation of chapter 9A.88 RCW.

RELIEF OF REGISTRATION BY OPERATION OF LAW AS DETERMINE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Upon request of a registered sex offender or kidnapping offender, the county sheriff shall investigate whether the person duty to register has ended by operation of law pursuant to RCW 9A.44.140. The sheriff shall use available records to verify the offender has spent the requisite time in the community and has not been convicted of a disqualifying offense. IF the sheriff determines the person duty to register has ended they shall request the WSP to remove the name from the registry. A sheriff may also conduct such an investigation upon her or his own initiative. Immunity is provided for requesting removal or failure to remove or request removal.

RELIEF OF REGISTRATION BY OPERATION OF LAW FOR OUT OF STATE/FEDERAL OFFENSES WITH PROOF OF COURT DETERMINATION (RCW 9A.44.141)

A person who is listed in the central registry as the result of a federal or out-of-state conviction may request the county sheriff in which the person is registered to investigate whether the person should be removed from the registry if:

- A court in the person's state of conviction has made an individualized determination that the person should not be required to register; and
- The person provides proof of relief from registration to the county sheriff.
- If the county sheriff determines the person has been relieved of the duty to register in his or her state of conviction, the county sheriff shall request the Washington state patrol remove the person's name from the central registry.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS WHO WISH TO BE RELIEVED OF THE DUTY TO REGISTER (RCW 9A.44.143)

For class A sex offenses or kidnapping offenses committed when the petitioner was fifteen years of age or older, the court may relieve the petitioner of the duty to register if:

(a) At least 60 months have passed since the petitioner's adjudication and completion of any term of confinement for the offense giving rise to the duty to register and the petitioner has not been adjudicated or convicted of any additional sex offenses or kidnapping offenses.

(b) The petitioner has not been adjudicated or convicted of a violation of RCW 9A.44.132 (failure to register) during the sixty months prior to filing the petition.

(c) The petitioner shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the petitioner is sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant removal from the central registry of sex offenders and kidnapping offenders.

For all other sex offenses or kidnapping offenses committed by a juvenile not included in subsection (2) of this section, or Class A felonies when the offender was under fifteen years of age, the court may relieve the petitioner of the duty to register if:

(a) At least 24 months have passed since the adjudication and completion of any term of confinement for the offense giving rise to the duty to register and the petitioner has not been adjudicated or convicted of any additional sex offenses or kidnapping offenses.

(b) The petitioner has not been adjudicated or convicted of an FTR during the 24 months prior to filing the petition and shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the petitioner is sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant removal from the central registry of sex offenders and kidnapping offenders.

OBLIGATION TO COMPLY WITH REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Clarification or amendment of RCW 9A.44.130 does not relieve sex offenders of the obligation to comply with the registration requirements as the statute existed before July 28, 1991. It is a criminal offense to fail to register or fail to notify the sheriff of a change of address unless relieved of the registration requirement.

NOTE: CHILDREN IN THE CARE OR CUSTODY OF A REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER

Under RCW 9A.42.110, it is a misdemeanor offense to knowingly leave a child who is under the age of 18 in the care or custody of a person who must register as a sex offender due to committing a sex offense against a child, unless there exists written documents from a court of law, allowing the offender to have unsupervised contact with children, and/or a family reunification plan approved by the court, the Department of Corrections, or the Department of Social and Health Services.

RISK ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION AND DEPARTURE NOTIFICATIONS

As of July 22, 2011, there are additional sex offender populations to be reviewed and assigned an initial risk level by the End of Sentence Review Committee, as provided below. RCW 72.09.345.

To aid law enforcement agencies in making community notification decisions, the statutes require that the End of Sentence Review Committee review the following sex offenders:

(a) Offenders preparing for release from confinement for a sex offense or sexually violent offense committed on or after July 1, 1984.

(b) Sex offenders accepted from another state under a reciprocal agreement under the interstate corrections compact authorized in chapter 72.74 RCW.

(c) Juveniles preparing for release from confinement for a sex offense and releasing from the department of social and health services juvenile rehabilitation administration.

(d) Juveniles, following disposition, under the jurisdiction of a county juvenile court for a registerable sex offense.

(e) Juveniles found to have committed a sex offense and accepted from another state under a reciprocal agreement under the interstate compact for juveniles authorized in chapter 13.24 RCW. RCW 9.95.140; RCW 13.40.217; RCW 72.09.345.

The offender is classified as either a level 1 offender at low risk to reoffend within the community at large, a level 2 offender at moderate risk to reoffend within the community at large, or a level 3 offender at high risk to reoffend within the community at large. After reviewing the initial risk level classification, the law enforcement agency may assign its own risk level classification to the offender. RCW 4.24.550(6). The agency then discloses information appropriate to the circumstances of the particular offender. RCW 4.24.550(2)-(6). The lack of a fixed residence may be considered in determining an offender's risk level and shall make the offender subject to the disclosure of information to the public at large as per RCW 4.24.550.

If the agency assigns a different risk level classification than the one from the End of Sentence Review Committee, the agency must complete the Notice of Departure form and send to the Department of Corrections, or the Department of Social and Health Services and submit its reasons supporting the change in classification. Notification of the change must also be sent to the Washington State Patrol. The forms may be found in Offender Watch. RCW 43.43.540 and 4.24.550(10).

Reasons for departure from the End of Sentence Review Committee's risk assessment level may include, but are not limited to:

(1) A determination that the assessment tool was not scored correctly.

(2) Law enforcement has information that is not part of the ESRC decision.

(3) Circumstances are such that the risk assessment tool cutoff scores do not correspond with community safety issues.

Risk Assessment—Risks assessment tools are determined by the Department of Corrections End of Sentence Review Committee and Department of Social and Health Services. Law Enforcement shall use the same risk assessment tools for those offenders who are not releasing from the Department of Corrections or the Department of Social and Health Services.

NOTE: STATIC 99R is the primary risk assessment tool to be used by law enforcement for adult offenders.

Additional information, coding rules, new coding rule applications, frequently asked questions and risk factors outside of the STATIC 99R are also available on the internet, www.static99.org. Similar to the Washington State Sex Offender Risk Level Classification revised in 1999, the STATIC 99R may be used for adult females, but has not been validated for that population. Law Enforcement is to use the Washington State Level Classification tool for juvenile offenders and may use it for adult female offenders until new tools are identified. It is also available on the WASPC webpage.

When a registered sex offender is released into a community by the Department of Corrections, Department of Social and Health Services or when a sex offender moves into your catchments area, law enforcement will:

(1) Review the risk level using whichever tool was used by the End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC) unless the offender was convicted out of state. For out of state offenders use STATIC 99R.

(2) If the STATIC 99R was not used by the ESRC, still use it as an additional assessment of the offender.

(3) Review, as desired, offender's risk level for notification based on the risk assessment instrument and aggravating and mitigation factors The STATIC 99R measures static risk factors and local jurisdictions may possess other information on dynamic factors that may appropriately impact a sex offender's risk level. Examples of aggravating and mitigating factors are listed on the STATIC 99R scoring page.

(4) If there is a change in the recommended risk level, complete a "Departure Notice" and submit it to ESRC via DOC or DSHS 5. For out of state offenders, the STATIC 99R may be used to determine risk level for notification purposes. The STATIC 99R cut off scores are posted on the scoring sheet.