

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SEX-OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## NUMBER OF REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS

481 as of February 26, 2003.

### **1. WHO IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER?**

Sex-offender-registration requirements apply to all persons who live, reside, work, or attend school in the District of Columbia and who:

- (1) committed a registration offense on or after July 11, 2000;
- (2) committed a registration offense at any time and were in custody or under supervision on or after July 11, 2000;
- (3) were required to register under the laws of the District of Columbia as were in effect before July 11, 2000; or
- (4) committed a registration offense at any time in another jurisdiction and, within the registration period, entered the District of Columbia to live, reside, work, or attend school.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4001(9); 28 C.F.R. § 811.2(a))*

### **2. WHAT DOES “REGISTRATION OFFENSE” MEAN?**

“Registration offense” means:

- (1) an offense involving sexual abuse;
- (2) forcible rape, carnal knowledge, or statutory rape, as these offenses were proscribed until May 23, 1995;
- (3) indecent acts with children, as this offense was proscribed until May 23, 1995;
- (4) enticing a minor, as this offense was proscribed until May 23, 1995;
- (5) sodomy, as this offense was proscribed until May 23, 1995, if the offense was forcible or committed against a minor;
- (6) any of the following offenses if the victim is a minor:
  - (a) lewd, indecent, or obscene acts;
  - (b) obscenity;
  - (c) sexual performances using minors;
  - (d) incest;
  - (e) kidnapping;
  - (f) prostitution; and
  - (g) pandering;
- (7) any offense under the laws of the District of Columbia that involved a sexual act or sexual contact without consent or with a minor, assaulting or threatening another with the intent to engage in a sexual act or sexual contact or with the intent to commit rape, or

- causing the death of another in the course of, before, or after engaging or attempting to engage in a sexual act, sexual contact, or rape;
- (8) an attempt or a conspiracy to commit an offense that involved an attempt or conspiracy to commit an offense listed in (1) through (7) above;
  - (9) assault with the intent to commit rape, carnal knowledge, statutory rape, first- or second-degree sexual abuse, or child sexual abuse;
  - (10) assault with the intent to commit any other offense, kidnapping, or burglary, if the offense involved an intent, attempt, or conspiracy to commit an offense listed in (1) through (7) above;
  - (11) an offense under the law of any state, federal law, or the law of any other jurisdiction, that involved conduct constituting an offense listed in (1) through (10) above if committed in the District of Columbia or prosecuted under the laws of the District of Columbia or conduct that is substantially similar to the offenses listed in (1) through (10) above; or
  - (12) any other offense if the offender agrees in a plea agreement to be subject to sex-offender-registration requirements.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4001(8))*

### **3. ARE JUVENILE OFFENDERS REQUIRED TO REGISTER?**

Please contact the Metropolitan Police Department's Sex-Offender-Registry Unit for information on juvenile offenders.

### **4. WHEN AND WHERE DOES AN OFFENDER REGISTER?**

The registration period begins when the person:

- (1) is convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of a registration offense; or
- (2) was determined to be a sexual psychopath.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4002(a); 28 C.F.R. § 811.5(a))*

A sex offender must notify the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia within three days of being sentenced to probation; being released, including any escape or abscondance from incarceration or confinement; or entering the District of Columbia to live, reside, work, or attend school.

*(28 C.F.R. § 811.7(a)(1))*

A sex offender registers with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4003(a))*

### **5. WHAT INFORMATION MUST AN OFFENDER PROVIDE AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION?**

Information required at initial registration includes the sex offender's:

- (1) name and all aliases used;
- (2) date of birth;
- (3) sex;
- (4) race;
- (5) height and weight;
- (6) eye color;
- (7) identifying marks and characteristics;
- (8) driver's license number;
- (9) social-security number;

- (10) home address or expected place of residence; and
  - (11) any current or expected place of employment or school attendance.
- (D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4007(a)(2); 28 C.F.R. § 811.7(b)(1))*

**6. WHAT HAPPENS IF AN OFFENDER CHANGES HIS OR HER ADDRESS OR OTHER REGISTRATION INFORMATION DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIOD?**

A sex offender must notify the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia in writing if he or she:

- (1) ceases to live or reside at the registered address or moves to a different address;
  - (2) leaves a job or obtains a new job;
  - (3) leaves a school or enrolls in a new school; or
  - (4) ceases to own or becomes an owner of any motor vehicle,
- preferably prior to the event or, at the latest, within three days of the change.

*(28 C.F.R. §§ (a)(1), (b))*

**7. WHAT HAPPENS IF AN OFFENDER MOVES FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO ANOTHER STATE?**

A sex offender must notify the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia in writing if he or she is moving to another jurisdiction or if he or she works or attends school in another jurisdiction and must register in any such jurisdiction preferably prior to the event or, at the latest, within three days of the move.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4007(a)(7); § 22-4014(5); 28 C.F.R. §§ (a)(2), (b))*

The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia has the authority to notify the responsible registration agency or authorities in any other jurisdiction to which a sex offender moves, or in which a sex offender works or attends school.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4009(b)(1))*

**8. IS AN OFFENDER WHO MOVES FROM ANOTHER STATE TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REQUIRED TO REGISTER?**

A sex offender must notify the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia within three days of entering the District of Columbia to live or reside.

*(28 C.F.R. § 811.7(a)(1))*

**9. WHAT IF AN OFFENDER LIVES IN ANOTHER STATE BUT WORKS OR GOES TO SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA?**

A sex offender must notify the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia within three days of entering the District of Columbia to work or attend school.

*(28 C.F.R. § 811.7(a)(1))*

**10. IS REGISTRATION A LIFETIME REQUIREMENT?**

Registration is a lifetime requirement for sex offenders who:

- (1) committed a registration offense that is a lifetime-registration offense;
- (2) are sexual psychopaths;
- (3) have been subject on two or more occasions to a disposition involving a felony registration offense or a registration offense against a minor; or

- (4) have been subject to two or more dispositions, relating to different victims, each of which involved a felony registration offense or a registration offense against a minor.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4002(b))*

For all other offenders, the registration period continues until the expiration of any time being served on probation, parole, supervised release, conditional release, or convalescent leave or 10 years after the sex offender is placed on probation, parole, supervised release, conditional release, or convalescent leave or is unconditionally released from a correctional facility, prison, hospital, or other place of confinement, whichever is latest.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4002(a); 28 C.F.R. § 811.6(b)(1))*

**11. ARE THERE ANY PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO REGISTER OR FOR PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION?**

Any sex offender who knowingly violates any registration requirement, including those adopted by the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, will be fined no more than \$1,000, imprisoned for no more than 180 days, or both. In the event that a sex offender has a prior conviction for failing to register or a prior conviction in any other jurisdiction for failing to comply with the requirements of a sex-offender-registration program, he or she will be fined no more than \$25,000, imprisoned no more than five years, or both.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4015(a))*

Failing to register may also result in revocation of probation, parole, supervised release, or conditional release and an extension of the registration period.

*(28 C.F.R. § 811.12)*

**12. WHAT INFORMATION IS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT REGISTERED OFFENDERS?**

The Metropolitan Police Department has the authority to release and disseminate information obtained on sex offenders. The authorized activities of the Metropolitan Police Department include active and passive notification to all or parts of the community concerning a sex offender, such as:

- (1) victims and witnesses;
- (2) public and private educational institutions, daycare entities, and other institutions or organizations that provide services to or employ persons who may be victimized by a sex offender;
- (3) members of the public or governmental agencies requesting information on identified persons for employment or foster-care background checks or similar purposes; and
- (4) the public at-large.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4011(a))*

“Active notification” means affirmatively informing persons or entities about sex offenders. Authorized means of active notification include community meetings, fliers, telephone calls, door-to-door contacts, electronic notification, direct mailings, and media releases.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4011(b)(1))*

“Passive notification” means making information about sex offenders available for public inspection or in response to inquiries. Authorized means of passive notification include Internet postings, making registration lists and information about registrants available for inspection at police stations and other locations, and responding to written or oral inquiries in person, through the mail, by telephone, or through E-mail or other electronic means. Passive notification may be carried out concerning any sex offender; however, only information regarding Class A and B offenders is available for public inspection via the Internet.

*(D.C. Code Ann. §§ 22-4011(b)(1)-(3))*

Active notification concerning Class A offenders, those required to register for life, may be provided to any person or entity. Active notification concerning Class B offenders, those required to register for an offense against a minor, sexual abuse of a ward, or sexual abuse of a patient or client, and Class C offenders, those not included in Class A or Class B, may be provided to:

- (1) law-enforcement agencies;
- (2) organizations that deal with or provide services to vulnerable populations or victims of sexual offenses including schools, daycare centers, other childcare and youth-serving organizations and facilities caring for or providing services to the elderly or persons with impairments, shelters, churches, and victims-rights and victims-services entities;
- (3) victims of and witnesses to a sex offender's offense(s) and parents, guardians, and family member of such persons; and
- (4) any person about whom the Metropolitan Police Department has information indicating that a sex offender may pose a specific risk to that person and parents, guardians, and family members of such person.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4011(b)(3))*

### **13. CAN I SEARCH THE INTERNET FOR OFFENDERS IN MY AREA?**

Information on Class A and B offenders is available on the Internet at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/sor/sor.shtm>.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4011(b)(2))*

The site may be searched by city quadrant, last name, first name, patrol sector area (PSA), or district.

Information available includes the offender's:

- (1) full name;
- (2) home address;
- (3) work address;
- (4) date of birth;
- (5) age;
- (6) height and weight;
- (7) hair and eye color;
- (8) identifying marks;
- (9) offense of conviction;
- (10) date of conviction; and
- (11) place of conviction.

### **14. WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR MISUSE OF OFFENDER INFORMATION?**

Crimes committed against sex offenders will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

*(D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4011(d))*