



Washington Association of  
**SHERIFFS &  
POLICE CHIEFS**

## Sex Offender Registration, Notification, and Address Verification

Sex Offender Policy Board

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# The Governor's Taskforce



Community  
Protection Task  
Force

Chaired by Norm  
Maleng

Members included:  
Ida Ballasiotes, Helen Harlow, law  
enforcement, elected officials, victim  
groups, and professionals

Conducted 12 community  
meetings statewide



# Community Protection Act of 1990

The Community Protection Act was unanimously passed by the Legislature and signed into law on February 28, 1990.

Groundbreaking Changes:

- Sex Offender Registration
- Community Notification
- Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators



# Purpose

**Finding—Policy—1990 c 3 § 117:** "The legislature finds that sex offenders pose a high risk of engaging in sex offenses even after being released from incarceration or commitment and that protection of the public from sex offenders is a paramount governmental interest. The legislature further finds that the penal and mental health components of our justice system are largely hidden from public view and that lack of information from either may result in failure of both systems to meet this paramount concern of public safety. Overly restrictive confidentiality and liability laws governing the release of information about sexual predators have reduced willingness to release information that could be appropriately released under the public disclosure laws, and have increased risks to public safety. Persons found to have committed a sex offense have a reduced expectation of privacy because of the public's interest in public safety and in the effective operation of government. Release of information about sexual predators to public agencies and under limited circumstances, the general public, will further the governmental interests of public safety and public scrutiny of the criminal and mental health systems so long as the information released is rationally related to the furtherance of those goals.

Therefore, this state's policy as expressed in RCW [4.24.550](#) is to require the exchange of relevant information about sexual predators among public agencies and officials and to authorize the release of necessary and relevant information about sexual predators to members of the general public."

# Adult registration requirements

Any adult living in, 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 adult and registerable sex offenses see RCW [9A.44.128](#) and [9.94A.030](#).



# Juvenile registration requirements

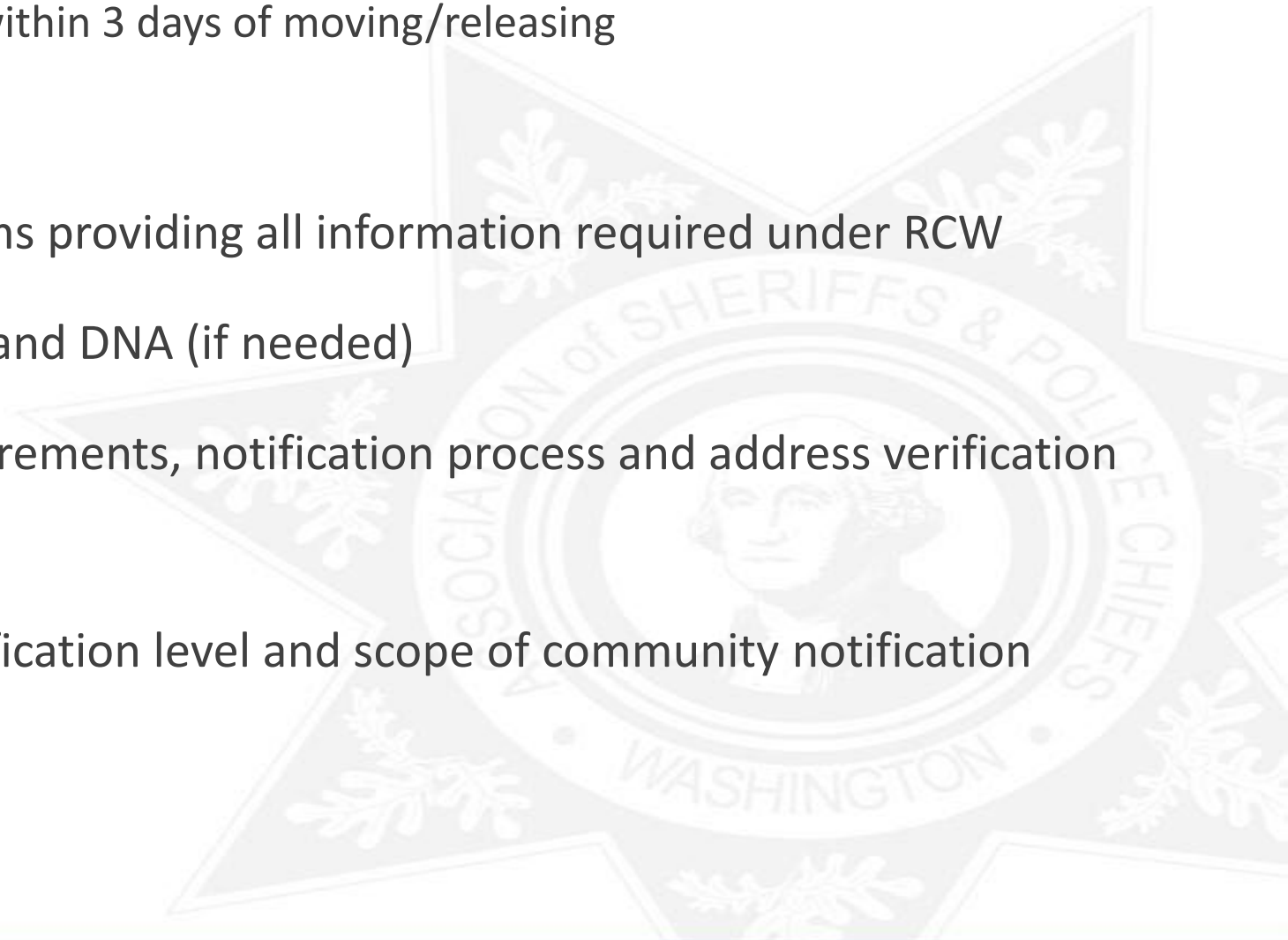
Under the following conditions:

- 16 or 17 at the time of offense and adjudicated of a class A or B and did not receive a Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA, [RCW 13.40.162](#)) OR had the SSODA revoked;
- 14 or 15 at the time of offense and were adjudicated of rape in the first degree (this DOES NOT include rape of a child in the first degree);
- 14 or 15 at the time of offense and were adjudicated of rape 2 and did not receive a Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA, [RCW 13.40.162](#)) OR had the SSODA revoked;
- Adjudicated of a sex offense and on the date of the offense, had a prior adjudication for a sex offense as defined in [RCW 9A.44.128](#) or had a deferred disposition for a sex offense pursuant to [RCW 13.40.127](#);
- Has and out of state, tribal or federal conviction for a sex offense;
- Has been adjudicated of a kidnapping offense; OR
- Is ordered by the court to register under certain circumstances outlined in [RCW 9A.44.130\(1\)\(b\)\(vii\)](#).

# Registration Process

RCW 9A.44.130 requires RSOs to register within 3 days of moving/releasing

- RSO comes to office
- Completes initial registration forms providing all information required under RCW
- Agency takes fingerprints, photo and DNA (if needed)
- Agency reviews registration requirements, notification process and address verification process
- Agency determines/finalizes notification level and scope of community notification



# What is a risk level?

- Risk levels refer to an individual's risk to **sexually reoffend within the community at large.**
- Risk levels are used to determine the level of community notification and verification frequency.
- Agencies shall make a good faith effort to notify the public and residents within a reasonable period of time after the offender registers with the agency.
- Static 99 risk assessment tool.

STATIC-99R Coding Form		Offender Name:	
Question	Risk Factor	Codes	Score
1	Young	Aged 18 - 34.99 Aged 35 - 39.9 Aged 40 - 59.9 Aged 60 or Older Lacks sufficient information to score	1 0 -1 -3 0
2	Ever lived with a lover for at least two years?	Yes No Lacks sufficient information to score	0 1 0
3	Index non-sexual violence - Any Convictions	No Yes	0 1
4	Prior non-sexual violence - Any Convictions	No Yes	0 1
5	Prior Sexual Offenses	Charges None 1-2 3-5 6+	Convictions None 1 2-3 4+
			0 1 2 3
6	Prior sentencing dates (excluding Index)	3 or less 4 or more	0 1
7	Any convictions for non-contact sex offenses	No Yes	0 1
8	Any Unrelated Victims	No Yes	0 1
9	Any Stranger Victims	No Yes	0 1
10	Any Male Victims	No Yes	0 1
Total Score		Add up scores from individual risk factors	
TRANSLATING STATIC 99R SCORES INTO RISK CATEGORIES			
	Level 1	-3 to +3	
	Level 2	4 - 5	
	Level 3	6+	
AGGRAVATING FACTORS			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Statements of intent/threat to sexually re-offend		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Past interventions and/or treatment have not deterred sexually deviant behavior		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pattern of behavior that increases risk for sexual re-offense		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documented information that increases risk for sexual re-offense		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Relationship with sex offense victim(s) was established or promoted for the primary purpose of victimization		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Offender used a position on community trust (e.g. coach, teacher, group leader, clergy or police officer) to gain access to sex offense victim(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex Offense victim(s) were of casual acquaintance with whom no substantial personal relationship exists		
MITIGATING FACTORS			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Familiar or know sex offense victim(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Current offense is not sexual in nature		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Previously released or classified as Risk Level 1		
<input type="checkbox"/>	24-hour supervised placement		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability or terminal illness that decreases ability to sexually re-offend		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-contact sex offense (e.g. possession of pornographic depictions)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual offending appears opportunistic in nature		
NOTES			
ASSIGNED RISK LEVEL			





# Risk level determination

## RCW 4.24.550

(6)(a) Law enforcement agencies responsible for the registration and dissemination of information regarding offenders required to register under RCW [9A.44.130](#) shall assign a risk level classification to all offenders after consideration of: (i) Any available risk level classifications provided by the department of corrections, the department of social and health services, and the indeterminate sentence review board; (ii) the agency's own application of a sex offender risk assessment tool; and (iii) other information and **aggravating or mitigating** factors known to the agency and deemed rationally related to the risk posed by the offender to the community at large.

(b) A sex offender shall be classified as a risk level I if his or her risk assessment and other information or factors deemed relevant by the law enforcement agency indicate he or she is at a low risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large. A sex offender shall be classified as a risk level II if his or her risk assessment and other information or factors deemed relevant by the law enforcement agency indicate he or she is at a moderate risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large. A sex offender shall be classified as a risk level III if his or her risk assessment and other information or factors deemed relevant by the law enforcement agency indicate he or she is at a high risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large.

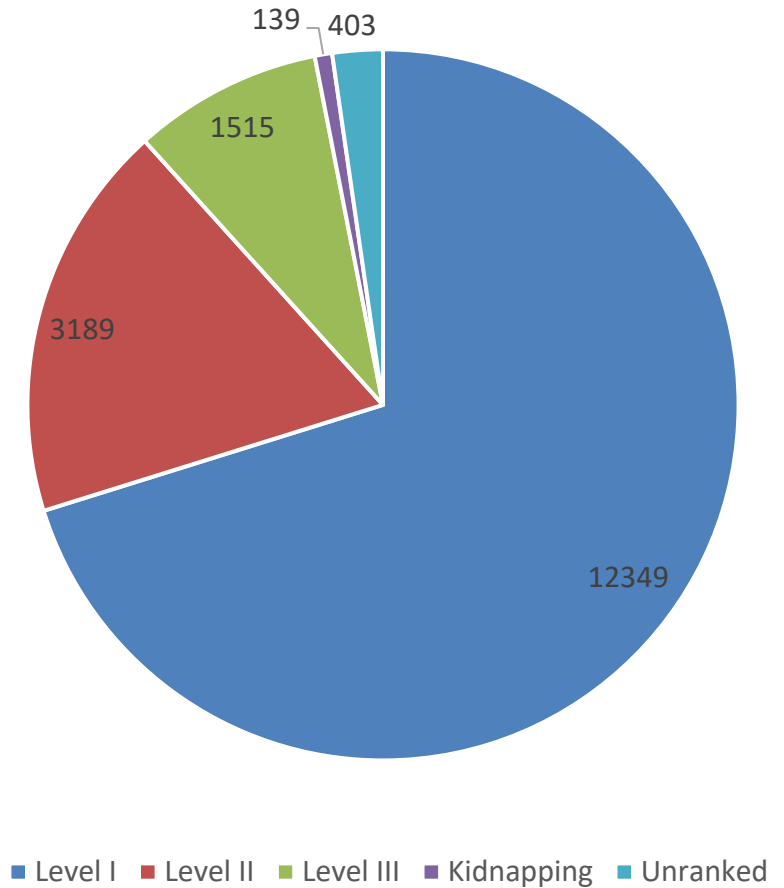
(c) The agency shall make a good faith effort to notify the public and residents within a reasonable period of time after the offender registers with the agency.

(d) Agencies may develop a process to allow an offender to petition for review of the offender's assigned risk level classification. The timing, frequency, and process for review are at the sole discretion of the agency.



# What do risk levels mean?

- **Level I** – Low risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large. Level Is are not published unless they are transient or non-compliant.
- **Level II** – Moderate risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large. Level IIs are all published.
- **Level III** – High risk to sexually reoffend within the community at large. Level IIIs are all published.
- **Kidnapping** – No rank is assigned for those with registerable kidnapping offenses. All kidnapers are published.
- **Unranked** – No risk is assigned. Not published, agencies should work to get a risk assigned as soon as possible.



Data as of 6/11/2024



# Community notification methods

- Sex Offender Public Websites
- Notification Flyers / Post Cards
- Community Notification Meetings
- Media Releases
- Education! Education! Education!



# Sex Offender Public Websites

- Washington State: [www.wasor.org](http://www.wasor.org)
- National: [www.nsopw.gov](http://www.nsopw.gov)
  - The WA website feeds directly into the National website.
  - Tribal registries can also be found on the National website.

	New Registrations	Notices Sent	Webpage Views
Total 2022	4,431	284,952	254,883
Total 2023	4,486	302,478	255,593

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Stevens County Sheriff's Office website. At the top, there is a banner with a photo of Sheriff Brad Manke and the text "STEVENS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE". Below the banner, there are navigation links: "Search for Offenders in your area", "Register for Email Alerts", "Links", and "Contact". A "Disclaimer" section is visible, starting with "Welcome!" and "We encourage you to take advantage of the free email notification...". It includes a list of disclaimers and a section titled "You must agree to the terms & conditions!" with a checkbox and a "Continue" button. At the bottom, there is a footer with links: "Home | View Presentation | Search for Offenders in your area | Register for Email Alerts | Links | Contact | Unsubscribe from Email Alerts".



# Address verification 9A.44.135

(1) When an offender registers with the county sheriff pursuant to RCW [9A.44.130](#), the county sheriff shall notify the police chief or town marshal of the jurisdiction in which the offender has registered to live. If the offender registers to live in an unincorporated area of the county, the sheriff shall make reasonable attempts to verify that the offender is residing at the registered address. If the offender registers to live in an incorporated city or town, the police chief or town marshal shall make reasonable attempts to verify that the offender is residing at the registered address. Reasonable attempts include verifying an offender's address pursuant to the grant program established under RCW [36.28A.230](#). If the sheriff or police chief or town marshal does not participate in the grant program established under RCW [36.28A.230](#), reasonable attempts require a yearly mailing by certified mail, with return receipt requested, a nonforwardable verification form to the offender at the offender's last registered address sent by the chief law enforcement officer of the jurisdiction where the offender is registered to live. For offenders who have been previously designated sexually violent predators under chapter [71.09](#) RCW or the equivalent procedure in another jurisdiction, even if the designation has subsequently been removed, this mailing must be sent every ninety days.

The offender must sign the verification form, state on the form whether he or she still resides at the last registered address, and return the form to the chief law enforcement officer of the jurisdiction where the offender is registered to live within ten days after receipt of the form.

(2) The chief law enforcement officer of the jurisdiction where the offender has registered to live shall make reasonable attempts to locate any sex offender who fails to return the verification form or who cannot be located at the registered address.

If the offender fails to return the verification form or the offender is not at the last registered address, the chief law enforcement officer of the jurisdiction where the offender has registered to live shall promptly forward this information to the county sheriff and to the Washington state patrol for inclusion in the central registry of sex offenders.

(3) When an offender notifies the county sheriff of a change to his or her residence address pursuant to RCW [9A.44.130](#), and the new address is in a different law enforcement jurisdiction, the county sheriff shall notify the police chief or town marshal of the jurisdiction from which the offender has moved.

(4) County sheriffs and police chiefs or town marshals may enter into agreements for the purposes of delegating the authority and obligation to fulfill the requirements of this section.



# Address verification grant

- For Level I Offenders—Face-to-Face Address Verification will occur once every twelve months
- For Level II Offenders—Face-to-Face Address Verification will occur once every six months
- For Level III Offenders—Face-to-Face Address Verification will occur once every three months

For the purposes of the Address Verification Grant, unclassified offenders and kidnapping offenders are considered level I offenders, unless the local jurisdiction sets a higher classification in the interest of public safety.



# Administrative relief under RCW 9A.44.141

Upon the request of the RSO, the county sheriff shall investigate whether a person's duty to register has ended. Nothing prohibits the sheriff from initiating the investigation. ([RCW 9A.44.141](#))

Length of registration is outlined in [RCW 9A.44.140](#).

Adults: Class A or 2 or more convictions = indefinite; Class B = 15 consecutive years in the community with no disqualifying offenses; Class C/GM = 10 consecutive years in the community with no disqualifying offenses.

"Disqualifying offense" means 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(7) 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.

Juveniles: Class A at 15, 16 or 17 = 3 years; all others 2 years. Disqualifying offenses do not apply, only new sex offense adjudications will re-start the time.

Anyone not eligible for administrative relief can petition the court under [RCW 9A.44.142](#) or [.143](#)



# Petitions for Relief RCW 9A.44.142 or 9A.44.143

RCW 9A.44.142 – Individuals that are eligible can petition the superior court for relief of their duty to register.

Individuals that are not eligible for relief can petition for exemption from community notification requirements.

RCW 9A.44.143 – Allows individuals that committed their offense when they were a juvenile to petition.





# Questions



# Contact Information

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