

SOR PUBLIC WEBSITE FAQ:

The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry

Registrant status/types:

The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry displays information for all individuals required to register, whether or not they are on any form of Department of Corrections (DOC) supervision. Not all individuals listed are on some form of DOC supervision, **in fact the majority are not.**

The Registry will identify the Incarceration/Supervision Status as follows:

-On DOC/Division of Community Corrections Supervision – currently on probation, parole, or extended supervision with a DOC Agent and must follow rules in addition to registering. This population will be identified as: **Incarceration/Supervision Status: On DOC/Division of Community Corrections Supervision**

-Off DOC/Division of Community Corrections Supervision – no longer on Community Corrections Supervision and no longer required to follow rules, however they are still required by law to register their address and other required information to the Registry. This population will be identified as: **Incarceration/Supervision Status: Off DOC/Division of Community Corrections Supervision**

-UNDER DHS SUPERVISION – currently being supervised by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. This population will be identified as: **Incarceration/Supervision Status: Under DHS Supervision**

-INCARCERATED – currently incarcerated within the Wisconsin State Prison System. This population will be identified as: **Incarceration/Supervision Status: Incarcerated**

Q: Why is there a sex offender Web site?

A: WI State Statute [301.46\(5n\)](#) allows the Department of Corrections to provide access to information concerning persons registered under s. [301.45](#) by maintaining an Internet site. The Department of Corrections maintains online access to the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry. Searches may be conducted using complete or partial names, addresses and zip codes.

Q: Who is required to register?

A: Anyone who on or after 12/25/1993, has been convicted, adjudicated delinquent, was in prison, in a juvenile correctional facility, in a secured residential care facility for children, or on probation/parole or extended supervision for a registerable sex offense.

In addition, if living, working or attending school in WI, the following must register:

- Any sex offender who is required to register with another state/jurisdiction, including juveniles
- Any sex offender convicted in a military, tribal, or federal court
- Any sex offender who has been convicted in another state of an offense comparable to one of Wisconsin's registerable offenses, including juveniles

- Any juvenile who is on supervision and enters Wisconsin under the Interstate Compact Agreement

*****Once a registrant has discharged from their registration requirement or we are notified that they are deceased, they are removed from the WI Sex Offender Registry.**

Please consult WI Statute [301.45](#) for a detailed description of the specific circumstances that require registration.

Q: What information are registrants required to report?

A: Per WI statute [301.45](#), registrants must report their address, employment, volunteer work, school enrollment status/information, and internet identifiers.

Registrants must report any changes within 10 days of the change.

Q: Who has access to the registry?

A: Per WI Statute [301.46](#), the general public has access to registrant information contained on the public website. (**Note:** Not all registrant information is available to the public). Law enforcement officials have access to additional information not available on the public website. Victims may register with [NOTIS](#) to receive information and resources from the Office of Victim Services. The Office of Victim Services may also be reached by calling 1-800-947-5777.

Q: What other information can be found on the registry?

A: Other information contained on the public website may include the registrant's:

- Demographic information (height, weight, hair color, eye color and known alias names)
- Compliance status
- Length of registration
- Current reported address
- The sexual offenses requiring registration
- Supervision status
- Vehicle

Q: Do juvenile sex offenders have to register?

Although juveniles are required to register, juvenile information is not available to the general public and will not appear on the Sex Offender Registry website.

A: Juvenile sex offenders must register if they are waived into adult court and convicted of a registerable sex offense, or if they are adjudicated delinquent by a judge for a registerable sex offense. In addition if a juvenile is ordered under county supervision, and ordered by a judge to register they must register.

Q: How long does a sex offender remain on the registry?

A: Registration time frame is determined by conviction and sentencing. Registration terms are 15 years after conviction date if not sentenced to supervision or incarceration, 15 years after discharge date if sentenced to incarceration or supervision, or lifetime. Registrants convicted of multiple registrable offenses may require lifetime registration.

Q: What happens if a registrant fails or refuses to report information?

A: Failing to report or falsifying information may lead to criminal prosecution. The penalty for noncompliance is up to a \$10,000 fine and/or up to 6 years in prison, or both. WI Statute [301.45\(6\)\(a\)\(2\)](#)

Q: How can I find out more information about a registrant's offense?

A: Detailed offense information can be obtained by requesting the Criminal Complaint and/or Sentencing Documents from the Clerk of Court in the county of conviction. Note, the county may charge a fee for these documents.

If you know the registrant's full name and/or case number, you may access case information on the [Wisconsin Circuit Court Access Program \(CCAP\)](#).

Q: Will a victim's name or identifying information be associated with a registered sex offender who offended against them? Will SOR provide victim information to the public?

A: Absolutely not. The public does not have access to information about victims of any crimes, including those of registered sex offenders.

Q: Can sex offenders live next door to a park, school, day care center, bus stop etc.?

A: For registrants on active supervision: A Department of Corrections Probation/Parole agent will approve or deny any proposed sex offender residence. Reasons for approval/denial are determined on a case by case basis.

Sex offenders on active supervision will have increased rules and restrictions regarding their residence, employment, and leisure activities.

For registrants no longer under supervision: There is no restriction per WI Statute regarding where sex offenders can live. Please refer to your local jurisdiction for ordinances that may restrict where sex offenders can reside. ** The WI Sex Offender Registry has no involvement in ordinances restricting residency or in placement of registrants. **

Q: Can sex offenders access the internet, email and social media sites?

A: By Statute, the Sex Offender Registry does not prohibit registrants from having social networking, email, internet chat room, or instant messaging accounts. However, during active supervision registrants may have restrictions imposed by their probation and parole agent. All registrants are required to report any and all internet identifiers for personal use. This information is not provided to the public.

Q: Can registrants have contact with or live with children?

A: Registrants on active supervision may have rules restricting their activities with children.

Per WI Statute [301.45](#) registrants no longer on supervision have no restrictions on living with minor children. Some registrants are restricted from working or volunteering with minor children. As outlined in Statute [948.13](#).

Working with Children:

Wisconsin State Statute [948.13](#) prohibits registered sex offenders convicted of a serious child sex offense from working or volunteering, paid or unpaid, in a position that requires them to work or interact primarily and directly with children under the age of 16. Types of activities include: teaching children, child care, youth counseling, youth organizations, coaching children, park or playground recreation working, or school bus driving.

Q: Can sex offenders be on school property?

A: Registrants on active supervision may have rules restricting their ability to be on school property.

All registered sex offenders are required to follow provisions set forth in WI statute [301.475](#).

Wisconsin State Statute [301.475](#) requires all registered sex offenders to notify the school district administrator of their status as a registered sex offender prior to being on school property for any school sponsored event.

Q: Can sex offenders be homeless?

A: Yes. It is not a violation of the Sex Offender Registry to be homeless. Homeless registrants must contact the Department of Corrections once every 7 days to report their whereabouts.

Please see [State v. Dinkins](#) for more information.

Sex Crimes Laws of Wisconsin

For further information please visit: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov> or

<https://apps.rainn.org/policy/policy-crime-definitions-export.cfm?state=Wisconsin&group=3>

The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry Website & Enforcement:

Q: Why is there a sex offender Web site?

A: WI State Statute [301.46\(5n\)](#) allows the Department of Corrections to provide access to information concerning persons registered under s. [301.45](#) by maintaining an Internet site. The Department of Corrections maintains online access to the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry. Searches may be conducted using complete or partial names or by geographic search.

Q: Does the general public have access on this Web site to the same information about sex offenders as victims or law enforcement personnel?

A: No. Victims who have enrolled in NOTIS/VINE have access to more detailed information about the offender(s) who victimized them. In order to protect the public more effectively, Law Enforcement Personnel may have access to more information on all registered sex offenders.

Q: Why is there no information about juvenile offenders on the Web site?

A: In Wisconsin, juvenile adjudications are mostly confidential records. Law Enforcement does have the ability to release this information if warranted. Please see [301.46](#) for more information.

Q: What does the website provide?

A: The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry displays the registrant’s name, known aliases, demographic information, a photo, the offense that is requiring registration and a current address.

Q: How do I report an information error or omission regarding a particular registrant?

A: To notify the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry of information on the web site believed to be inaccurate, citizens may call the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry at 608-240-5830, email DOCBOPADMIN@wisconsin.gov, or write to:

Wisconsin Department of Corrections
Sex Offender Registry
P.O. Box 7925
Madison, WI 53707-7925

Anonymous submissions of errors and omissions, as well as information concerning the whereabouts of non-compliant registrants, also can be reported through the SAFE Tip Line toll free at 877-234-0085 or through email at docsafetips@doc.state.wi.us

Tips, questions and feedback may also be made directly from the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry’s website:

How to submit a tip:

From the display page, click the link:  [Submit a Tip](#)

**Information received by this method will be anonymous, contact information is not provided. The Registry cannot contact the tipster to obtain further information or follow up on the information provided in the tip. If requesting returned contact from the Registry, please provide your contact information for Registry Staff to respond.

**Add fields and warning in the SUBMIT A TIP to include optional contact information for follow-up.

How to contact us:

Click the  tab, for questions and feedback regarding information contained in the Registry. If requesting returned contact from the Registry, please provide your contact information for Registry Staff to respond.

Q: What happens when someone violates the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry?

A: Failing to report or falsifying information may lead to criminal prosecution. The penalty for noncompliance is up to a \$10,000 fine and/or up to 6 years in prison. WI SS. [301.45\(6\)\(a\)\(2\)](#). The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry does not have authority to immediately arrest or issue arrest warrants for violations of the Registry. The decision to prosecute is at the discretion of county District. The Registry receives information from a variety of sources including law enforcement and members of the community.

The Registry also relies on the SAFE team to provide information and tips regarding those on the Registry. SAFE stands for Sex Offender Apprehension and Felony Enforcement. This team of investigators was started in 2005 to assist in enforcing Wisconsin laws to protect kids and keep our

communities safer. Through SAFE, state and local justice agencies are pooling resources and coordinating activities to hold sex offenders accountable for their actions, prevent sex offenders from becoming anonymous in our communities and apprehend and prosecute offenders who fail to report their whereabouts to authorities.

Special Bulletin Notice and Notification:

Q: What is community notification and “Special Bulletin Notice” (SBN) in regards to registrants?

A: Wisconsin State Statute [301.46](#) instructs the Department of Corrections on how to disseminate information about sex offenders to local law enforcement and to the public. Certain offenders (depending on number of offenses or special circumstances of an offense) may warrant a Special Bulletin Notice to be sent to local law enforcement. The statute provides the Department with guidelines on what information must be provided to local law enforcement so they can make a determination on how to notify their community. In some circumstances, local law enforcement may wish to send out bulletins and / or conduct a community notification meeting for certain individuals on the Registry moving into their community.

Department of Health Services may also release Special Bulletin Notices in regards to people under their care.

Q: Why doesn't law enforcement or the Department provide bulletins or conduct a notification on all registrants?

A: Due to the number of registrants, it would make the notification ineffective if there were an over saturation of meetings and or bulletins sent out. Each community is also different. For some communities, it might be rare having a person on the Registry living in their community, for others, it might be more frequent. The statute gives local law enforcement the ability to make a decision that is appropriate for the community they work for and know well. However, if you'd like to be notified of every registrant that enters into your neighborhood, you may sign up for notifications on the website. The website gives any member of the public the ability to receive an email notification of registrants that move into a certain radius of an address.

Additional Offender Information Resources:

Q: Where can I find additional information about registrants who are incarcerated or on supervision?

A: Public record information for offenders who are currently incarcerated or on supervision with the WI DOC is available at [DOC Offender Locator](#). The WI DOC website also provides general information about incarceration with the [Division of Adult Institutions](#) and supervision with the [Division of Community Corrections](#).

Q: Are additional resources and information available to crime victims?

A: Victims can contact the [Office of Victim Services and Programs](#) with questions about an offender's status and location, restitution, the parole process, release, unwanted contact from offenders, rules of community supervision, and other DOC-related issues. Victims, survivors, and witnesses of crime may also enroll with [DOC NOTIS](#) to receive free notifications about offender status changes.

Q: How can I find out more about the offense requiring registration?

A: Additional case details for WI convictions may be available at the [Wisconsin Circuit Court Access website](#). A public records request to the court of conviction may also yield further information.

Q: Will a victim's name or identifying information be associated with a registered sex offender who offended against them? Will SOR provide victim information to the public?

A: Absolutely not. The public does not have access to information about victims of any crimes, including those of registered sex offenders.

Q: Should citizens act differently now that a registrant is living in their neighborhood?

A: Open communication among family members, especially between parents and children, is a vital component of family safety. Children might be told in general terms that this person has hurt someone before. Families can review safety tips and protective behaviors. The purpose behind community notification is to reduce the chances of future victimization of people and to avoid situations that might allow for victimization.

Q: Should citizens follow or watch the registrant at all times?

A: It is against the law to misuse the information from the Sex Offender Registry for personal, unlawful, or vigilante purposes.

Q: What should parents tell their children about sex offenders?

A: Avoid scary details. Parents may know more than their children need to know. Keep information general, as it may protect them from others who would try to harm them as well. Explain the importance of avoiding dangerous situations in general, rather than trying to teach them how to be safe from just the one person they know about. Almost 90 percent of all sex crimes are committed by someone known to the victim. Some basic points to tell children about a particular offender:

- Don't accept a ride from the offender.
- Don't go into the home or yard of the offender.
- Tell your parents if this person offers you toys, money or gifts.
- Try to use the buddy system when children play outdoors.
- Call 911 if your parents aren't home and this offender approaches you.

For additional resources and information please check out the following sites:

<https://www.zeroabuseproject.org/victim-assistance/jwrc/>

<https://www.d21.org/>

[Information about Global Positioning System \(GPS\) tracking](#)

FAQs for 2023 WI Act 254

Q: I heard that a new law was recently passed which could affect sex offender registrants and those who are required to be on Lifetime GPS tracking. What is that about?

A: On March 31, 2024, legislation was enacted which defined in law the phrase “on two or more separate occasions” as it relates to sex offender registration and notification under Wisconsin Statutes 301.45 and 301.46. In 2017, the Attorney General issued an opinion (OAG-02-17), which concluded that the phrase referred to multiple convictions, regardless of whether they were part of the same proceeding, occurred on the same date, or were included in the same criminal complaint. 2023 Wisconsin Act 254 codifies the Attorney General opinion and also apply it to findings of not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect.

The new law is retroactive to anyone meeting certain criteria after September 2, 2017. The Wisconsin Department of Corrections must identify persons who were released from the registry requirements or were not subject to the lifetime tracking requirement before the bill took effect, but who would have been subject to the pertinent requirement had the law been in effect. Per the legislation, no later than 60 days after the law takes effect, the Department of Corrections must notify these persons that they must register as sex offenders for life or be subject to lifetime tracking. Persons who are notified that they must be on GPS or register for life have 30 days after being notified to have GPS installed and/or register or are guilty of a Class H felony.

Q: How will I know if a registrant is affected by this new law?

A: The WI DOC Sex Offender Registry identifies persons who are affected by 2023 WI Act 254 and will notify those who are affected. If the law applies, the Registry will notify the registrant by mail if it results in a change in registration requirements.

Q: Why did a registrant receive notice that they are now required to register/be subject to SBN/GPS?

A: The registrant has been identified as someone who was directly impacted by the new law. Because of the requirements specific to how convictions are counted, it has been determined that the registrant will now be required to register for life, require the re-installation of GPS monitoring and/or have a Special Bulletin Notification generated. Any challenges to this law need to occur in a court of law, through legal processing. The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry is not able to provide legal advice in this matter. It is recommended that those with concerns seek legal assistance if they have further questions or challenges.

Q: I thought the Supreme Court overturned AG-02-17? How can the DOC turn around and reapply the same criteria?

A: The Wisconsin Department of Corrections must comply with the laws passed by the state legislature and signed into law by the Governor. Any challenges to this new law need to occur in a court of law, through legal processing. The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry is not able to provide legal advice in this matter. It is recommended that those with concerns seek legal assistance if they have further questions or challenges.

Q: What are the consequences if a registrant refuses to comply with the new law requirements?

A: The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry is required to enact and enforce laws specific to the Sex Offender Registry. Refusal to comply with those requirements under Wisconsin State Statute 301.45, 301.46, 301.48 and other corresponding laws may result in a referral to the local District Attorney's Office for charges and prosecution. The penalty for registry noncompliance is up to a \$10,000 fine and/or up to 6 years in prison, or both. The penalty for GPS refusal/tamper is up to a \$10,000 fine and/or up to 3.5 years in prison, or both.

Q: What is the timeframe a registrant has to comply with the new law?

A: No later than 60 days after the law takes effect, DOC must notify individuals impacted by the new law that they must register as sex offenders or be subject to lifetime tracking. Under the bill, persons who are notified that they must register have 30 days after being notified to register or they are guilty of a Class H felony.

Q: How can a registrant report changes to the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry?

*A: • Call the 24 hour Assistant (recording) 888-963-3363.
• Call staff during business hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday- Friday at 608-240-5830. If you leave a message, leave your DOC number, date of birth and spell your last name. Please speak slowly and clearly and be aware of any background noise that may make it difficult to hear your message.
• Email changes to DOCBOPADMIN@Wisconsin.gov • Fax to 608-240-3355
• Mail a note to Wisconsin DOC SOR, PO Box 7925, Madison, WI 53707-7925.
• Visit the Registrant Portal at www.SORWI.gov to verify your information electronically. (See Registrant Portal FAQ's in this document for more details).*

Q: Can a registrant be removed from the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry early?

A: The Sex Offender Registry has no authority to remove anyone from the registry. There are legal avenues, in certain circumstances, to accomplish removal from the sex offender registry. This would have to be pursued in the court of conviction.

Q: How does a registrant get GPS taken off?

A: If a registrant has been convicted, or found not guilty or not responsible by reason of mental disease or defect for multiple counts of a sexual offense, as described in 2023 WI Act 254, the registrant is required to comply with GPS tracking for their lifetime, while a resident of Wisconsin, per WI Statute 301.48(2)(a)7. If the registrant is on active Probation or Parole supervision at this time, an agent cannot remove the GPS requirements. A person subject to lifetime GPS tracking under WI Statute 301.48 may petition the court to be removed from the requirement no earlier than 20 years after the date on which the lifetime GPS tracking began.

Q: A registrant was required to register for 2 or more counts with one court case prior to September 2, 2017. The conviction was before that date. If the law says this applies to determinations made on September 2, 2017, why is the registrant now required to register for life?

Answer: 2023 WI Act 254 applies to determinations made on or after September 2, 2017, regarding whether a person has been convicted or found not guilty on 2 or more separate occasions. The law looks at the date of the determination and not the date of the conviction.