

**NYS
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION ACT
(SORA)**

**What Every
Parent**



**Needs To
Know**

**KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CHARLES J. HYNES**



*Message from the
District Attorney*

Each year too many of our children fall prey to sexual abuse at the hands of strangers and people known to them. Sexual assault can be a recidivistic crime. That is why it is very important for us to keep track of sex offenders and to notify the community of their whereabouts.

In 1996, New York enacted the Sex Offender Registration Act. This law requires convicted sex offenders to register their addresses and other identifying information with the Division of Criminal Justice Services before they re-enter society. It also provides ways for people to learn if any sex offender has moved into their neighborhood.

Every child in our community deserves the full protection of the law. Information and education can help us reach this goal. I hope that this booklet assists you in obtaining a better understanding of the Sex Offender Registration Act.

Charles J. Hynes

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WHAT IS THE NEW YORK STATE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION ACT?

The New York State Sex Offender Registration Act (**SORA**) was enacted into law in 1996. It requires all individuals convicted of designated sexual offenses to register with the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

IS THIS THE SAME AS MEGAN'S LAW?

The New York State Sex Offender Registration Act is the equivalent of what most people know as New Jersey's Megan's Law. New Jersey enacted their Sex Offender Registration Act in memory of Megan Kanka, a six year old victim of sexual assault and murder.

WHO HAS TO REGISTER?

The Sex Offender Registration Act applies to **all** individuals convicted of designated sexual offenses, regardless of whether the victim is an adult or a child.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REGISTER?

Before a sex offender registers with the Division of Criminal Justice Services he is assigned a risk level classification. This risk level classification is based upon his likelihood to re-offend, and the risk he poses to the community. A sex offender's registration requirements depend on the risk level assigned to him.

At a minimum, every sex offender is required to register his address and other identifying information with the Division of Criminal Justice Services annually and to file a change of address within 10 days of the change. In addition to annually verifying his address, a sex offender's registration requirements will increase depending on the risk level that he is assigned (see within).

HOW IS A SEX OFFENDER'S RISK LEVEL DETERMINED?

The Sentencing Judge determines a sex offender's risk level after a hearing in which the Court considers many factors about the case, including the age of the victim, the criminal history of the offender, as well as the method by which the crime was committed. The risk level is assigned by the Judge upon a sex offender's sentence and/or release from prison.

WHAT ARE THE RISK LEVEL CLASSIFICATIONS?

There are three risk level classifications. Level One represents a low risk of re-offense. Level Two represents a moderate risk of re-offense. Level Three represents a high risk of re-offense.

In addition to the three classification levels, a sex offender may be given a particular designation as a sex-

ual predator, sexually violent offender, or predicate sex offender. The risk level represents the offender's risk of re-offense. The risk level and designation determines the length of time a sex offender must register, as well as the level of notification to the community.

WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT A SEX OFFENDER MUST REGISTER?

A Level One sex offender with no additional designation is required to register for twenty years. A Level One sex offender with a designation, as well as all Level Two and Level Three sex offenders, must register for life.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF EACH LEVEL?

All sex offenders, regardless of their designated risk level classification, are required to register their address and other identifying information with the Division of Criminal Justice Services each year. Additionally, every time an offender moves to a new address, he must report this address to the authorities no later than 10 days after moving.

Every sex offender with a Level Three classification and any sex offender designated as a sexual

predator must appear in person to verify his address, every 90 days, at the Sex Offender Monitoring Unit of the New York City Police Department.

In addition, community notification can be made about Level Twos and Level Threes. All Level Twos and Threes are also posted on the website of the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A SEX OFFENDER DOES NOT REGISTER?

A sex offender who does not meet his registration obligations will be charged with the crime of Failure to Register as a Sex Offender. For his first offense, he faces a prison term of up to four years. If he fails to register again, he faces a prison term of up to seven years.

HOW CAN I LEARN IF ANY SEX OFFENDERS LIVE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

There are four ways to obtain information about registered sex offenders in your community.

1. The first way is to call the **New York State Sex Offender Registry at 1(800) 262-3257**. You must provide the name of the person as well as some other identifying information such as a date of birth,

social security number, driver's license number or exact address..

2. You can also get a list of the Level Two and Level Three sex offenders who live in your community by going to the website of the Division of Criminal Justice Services: www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us From the website click on the **New York State Subdirectory of Registered Sex Offenders**. You can search the Subdirectory geographically by zip code or city/town.

3. You can go to your local police precinct and ask to look at the Subdirectory, which is kept on file by the police.

4. The police are authorized to notify the community about sex offenders who reside there.

HOW DO I PROTECT MY CHILDREN?

The most important thing you can do is educate your children . Tell your children how important it is to be careful around strangers. Supervise your children at all times. Encourage them to tell you about anything or anyone who causes them alarm or discomfort. If you encounter any situations that cause you concern, don't hesitate to talk to the police.

You can obtain additional information about the Sex Offender Registration Act by going to the DCJS website at www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us

HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police, Fire, Ambulance Emergency 911

Brooklyn Precincts

60th Precinct	718-946-3311
61st Precinct	718-627-6611
62nd Precinct	718-236-2611
63rd Precinct	718-258-4411
66th Precinct	718-851-5611
67th Precinct	718-287-3211
68th Precinct	718-439-4211
69th Precinct	718-257-6211
70th Precinct	718-851-5511
71st Precinct	718-735-0511
72nd Precinct	718-965-6311
73rd Precinct	718-495-5411
75th Precinct	718-827-3511
76th Precinct	718-834-3211
77th Precinct	718-735-0611
78th Precinct	718-636-6411
79th Precinct	718-636-6611
81st Precinct	718-574-0411
83rd Precinct	718-574-1605
84th Precinct	718-875-6811
88th Precinct	718-636-6511
90th Precinct	718-963-5311
94th Precinct	718-383-3879

NYPD Sex Offender Monitoring Unit (212) 736-2977
(SOMU)

NYS Sex Offender Registry **1(800) 262-3257**
Kings County D.A. Sex Crimes Bureau (718)-250-3170



[WWW. BROOKLYNDA.ORG](http://WWW.BROOKLYNDA.ORG)