

Sex Offender Registry Requirements Across the United States

What is the Sex Offender Registry?

Every state and U.S. territory requires those convicted of sex offenses to be added to a registry to be monitored and tracked after their release back into the community. Information about the offender is collected and shared with local and federal authorities, as well as the general public. Requirements and restrictions are often placed on registered sex offenders. That registration process is unique in each state and U.S. territory.

What is SORNA?

The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) was passed in 2006 as part of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act to provide federal standards for jurisdictions to follow. SORNA calls for states and U.S. territories to meet minimum requirements for sex offender registration and notification.

Why Are the Requirements for Sex Offender Registration Different Everywhere?

While SORNA's guidelines streamlined registration and notification requirements across the country, these requirements are far from uniform. Each jurisdiction determines the details of their own registration process. This leaves a patchwork of rules for sex offenders that vary widely depending on where a registrant lives or works.

Where PIN Comes In

Probation Information Network developed a list of questions regarding the sex offender registration requirements across the country. These are questions that might concern the public, victims and their advocates, or those who are facing registration or are currently registered and their loved ones. We then searched the statutes or code of each jurisdiction for the laws surrounding sex offender registration and notification. Where necessary, we consulted with the law enforcement agency in charge of the jurisdiction's registry to provide clear and concise answers to the following questions:

- **What is the duration of registration?**

How long must a sex offender remain on the registry? The length of time a sex offender must comply with registration requirements varies widely depending on the jurisdiction where the registrant lives, and the level of the offense committed. All but 2 jurisdictions offer a path for eventual removal from the registry for at least some of their registrants.

- **Must the immediate community be notified directly, either by the offender or law enforcement?**

Every jurisdiction has passive community notification in the form of a public sex offender registry website. Concerned citizens are free to search the website and can sign up for email notifications if a sex offender moves into their neighborhood. Some jurisdictions go even further and require active notification, where either law enforcement or the offender themselves is required to directly

notify the immediate community that a sex offender is in the area. This can take many forms, including electronic, mail, or in-person notification, publication in local newspapers, and community meetings.

- **What are the residence distance restrictions?**

Are there any restrictions on where a registered sex offender can live? Some jurisdictions restrict registrants from living within a measured distance of certain places. This restriction could be for all registrants, or only for higher-level offenders or those under supervision. Some jurisdictions do not have a state-wide restriction but do allow local jurisdictions to enact their own.

- **What are the employment distance restrictions?**

Registered sex offenders are usually restricted from certain types of employment, and from working at establishments that specifically cater to minors. Some jurisdictions go even further and restrict registrants from working within a measured distance of certain places.

- **Is an employer's information included on the public registry?**

Returning citizens of every type need to find employment upon reentry, and sex offenders are no exception. Some jurisdictions include registrants' employment information on the public registry website. This could be the employer's address or in some cases the name of the employer.

- **Are online identifiers included on the public registry?**

Some jurisdictions require registered sex offenders to report any identifiers they use online, such as email addresses and social media user names. In some jurisdictions that information is included on the public registry website, separate from the registrant's profile, in a feature that allows the public to search by specific identifiers.

- **Is a state-issued ID required to be labeled?**

Some jurisdictions require a state-issued ID, such as a driver's license, to be labeled to identify the holder as a registered sex offender. This label could be the words "Sex Offender" printed on the ID in a prominent place or a more subtle designation known to law enforcement.

- **What is the cost of registration?**

Is there a fee to register as a sex offender? Some jurisdictions pass on some of their administrative costs to the registrants. This could be a one-time fee paid only upon initial registration, or an ongoing fee paid annually or quarterly. Some jurisdictions charge a fee every time a registrant updates their information.

- **How long can a registrant be in the state for work or education before registration is required?**

Does a sex offender have to register if they work or go to school in a different state? It depends on the state, and how long the registrant will be there. Some jurisdictions require registrants to notify authorities immediately, while others allow limited stays without requiring registration. Registrants currently under supervision usually need permission from their Parole or Probation Officer before traveling and should always consult their supervising officer.

- **How long can a registrant visit the state before registration is required?**

Can a registered sex offender go on vacation? Does a sex offender have to register if they visit a different state? It depends on the state, and how long the registrant will be there. Some jurisdictions require registrants to notify authorities immediately, while others allow limited stays without requiring registration. Registrants currently under supervision usually need permission from their Parole or Probation Officer before traveling and should always consult their supervising officer.

The answers provided are taken directly from the laws found on the state or territory's legislative website or, where necessary, from the website of the law enforcement agency in charge of the jurisdiction's registry. In some cases, we contacted state or territory officials for clarification and have directly quoted those conversations.

Disclaimer

While we stand by our research, it is for informational purposes only. It should not be considered legal advice and, while we strive to provide accurate and up to date information, it is not guaranteed to be complete or correct. We provide links to each jurisdiction's legislative and law enforcement websites and maintain a directory of lawyers who specialize in sex offender registration laws. For those currently under supervision, consult with your Parole or Probation Officer for guidance.

Louisiana Sex Offender Registry Requirements

What is the duration of registration?

LA Rev Stat § 15:544

A. Except as provided for in Subsection B of this Section, a person required to register and provide notification pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter shall comply with the requirement for a period of fifteen years from the date of the initial registration in Louisiana, or the duration of the lifetime of the offender as provided in Subsection E of this Section, unless the underlying conviction is reversed, set aside, or vacated, except for those convictions that were reversed, set aside, or vacated pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure Article 893 or 894, or a similar provision of federal law or law from another state or military jurisdiction. The requirement to register shall apply to an offender who receives a pardon as a first-time offender pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(E)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana and R.S. 15:572(B)(1).

B.(1) A person required to register pursuant to this Chapter who was convicted of a sexual offense against a victim who is a minor as defined in R.S. 15:541 shall register and maintain his registration and provide community notification pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter for a period of twenty-five years from the date of initial registration in Louisiana, or the duration of the lifetime of the offender as provided in Subsection E of this Section, unless the underlying conviction is reversed, set aside, or vacated, except for those convictions that were reversed, set aside, or vacated pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure Article 893 or 894, or a similar provision of federal law or law from another state or military jurisdiction. The requirement to register shall apply to an offender who receives a pardon as a first-time offender pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(E)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana and R.S. 15:572(B)(1).

E.

(1) The registration period of fifteen years established in Subsection A of this Section may be reduced to a period of ten years if the offender maintains a clean record for the entire ten-year period of registration upon motion to be relieved of the sex offender registration in the court of conviction for those convicted in Louisiana, or the court of the parish of residence for those convicted under the laws of another state, or military, territorial, foreign, tribal, or federal law which have been determined to be comparable to a Louisiana offense requiring a fifteen-year registration period by the bureau pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 15:542.1.3. The court shall consider a motion filed pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection only if the motion is accompanied by documentation of completion of an appropriate sex offender treatment program as described in Subparagraph (3)(d) of this Subsection.

(2) The lifetime registration period established in Paragraph (B)(2) of this Section may be reduced to a period of twenty-five years if the offender was adjudicated delinquent for the offense which requires registration and maintains a clean record for twenty-five years upon motion to be relieved of the sex offender registration in the court of adjudication for those adjudicated in

Louisiana, or court of the parish of residence for those adjudicated under the laws of another state, or military, territorial, foreign, tribal, or federal law. The court shall consider a motion filed pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection only if the motion is accompanied by documentation of completion of an appropriate sex offender treatment program as described in Subparagraph (3)(d) of this Subsection.

- (3) For purposes of this Subsection, an offender maintains a "clean record" by:
- (a) Not being convicted of any offense for which imprisonment for more than one year may be imposed.
 - (b) Not being convicted of any sex offense.
 - (c) Successfully completing any periods of supervised release, probation, or parole.
 - (d) Successfully completing an appropriate sex offender treatment program by a registered treatment as provided in R.S. 24:936 or an appropriate sex offender treatment program certified by the Attorney General of the United States.
 - (e) Complying with all sex offender registration and notification requirements in Louisiana each year for the prescribed period of time pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter.

Must the immediate community be notified directly, either by the offender or law enforcement?

LA Rev Stat § 15:542.1

A. Any adult residing in this state who has pled guilty to, has been convicted of, or where adjudication has been deferred or withheld for the perpetration or attempted perpetration of, or conspiracy to commit, a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 or a criminal offense against a minor as defined in R.S. 15:541 shall be required to provide the following notifications

- (1) Give notice of the crime for which he was convicted, his name, residential address, a description of his physical characteristics as provided in R.S. 15:542(C)(1), and a photograph or copy thereof to all of the following:
- (a) At least one person in every residence or business within a one-mile radius in a rural area and a three-tenths of a mile radius in an urban or suburban area of the address of the residence where the offender will reside upon release, including all adults residing in the residence of the offender.
 - (b)
 - (i) The superintendent of the school district where the offender will reside, who shall notify the principal of every school located within a one-mile radius of the address where the offender will reside and may notify the principals of other schools as he deems appropriate. The notice sent by the superintendent shall be accompanied by two clear, recent photographs, or a clear photocopy thereof, of the offender. The photographs, which shall be provided by the offender, shall be taken after release and within sufficient time to accompany the notification which is required under the provisions of this Chapter. The principal of any such school, upon receipt of the notification from the superintendent pursuant to the provisions of this Subparagraph, shall post notices at the school, in conspicuous areas accessible by all students attending the school, which contain a photograph of the offender and which state the offender's name, address, and a statement on the notice, commensurate with the education level of the school, which in the discretion of the principal, appropriately notifies the students of the potential danger of the offender.
 - (ii) Failure of the superintendent or principal to comply with the provisions of this Subparagraph shall not be construed to impose civil liability on any person.
 - (c) The lessor, landlord, or owner of the residence or the property on which he resides.
 - (d) The superintendent of any park, playground, or recreation districts within the designated area where the offender will reside, who shall notify the custodians of the

parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities in the designated area and may notify the custodians of other parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities as he deems appropriate. The custodian of any such park, playground, and recreational facility, upon receipt of the notification, shall post notices in conspicuous areas at the park, playground, or recreational facility which state the offender's name, address, and the crime for which he was convicted. Failure of the superintendent or custodian to comply with the provisions of this Subparagraph shall not be construed to impose civil liability on any person. The notice sent by the superintendent shall be accompanied by two clear, recent photographs, or a clear photocopy thereof, of the offender. The photographs, which shall be provided by the offender, shall be taken after release and within sufficient time to accompany the notification which is required under the provisions of this Chapter.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, persons convicted of R.S. 14:89 shall not be required to furnish a photograph as required by that Paragraph.

(2)

(a) Give notice of the crime for which he was convicted, his name, jurisdiction of conviction, a description of his physical characteristics as required by this Section, and his physical address by mail to all people residing within the designated area within twenty-one days of the date of conviction, if the offender is not taken into custody at the time of conviction, or within twenty-one days of the date of release from confinement or within twenty-one days of establishing residency in the locale where the offender plans to have his domicile, and the notice shall be published on two separate days within the applicable period provided for herein, without cost to the state, in the official journal of the governing authority of the parish where the defendant plans to reside and, if ordered by the sheriff or police department or required by local ordinance, in a newspaper which meets the requirements of R.S. 43:140(3) for qualification as an official journal and which has a larger or smaller circulation in the parish than the official journal. The notice provided to the official journal or other designated newspaper pursuant to this Subparagraph shall also include a recent photograph of the offender or a clear photocopy of a recent photograph of the offender.

(b) Those persons required to provide community notification pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall provide such community notification every five years from the date of the previous notification.

(3) Give any other notice deemed appropriate by the court in which the defendant was convicted of the offense that subjects him to the duty to register, including but not limited to signs, handbills, bumper stickers, or clothing labeled to that effect.

B.

(1) Any person required to register pursuant to R.S. 15:542 who provides recreational instruction to persons under the age of seventeen years shall post a notice in the building or facility where such instruction is being given. This notice shall contain the name and photograph of the sex offender, the date and jurisdiction of conviction, and the crime for which he was convicted. Such notification shall be prominently displayed and shall be of sufficient size to alert persons entering such building or facility that the recreational instructor is a convicted sex offender.

(2) For purposes of this Subsection, "recreational instruction" refers to instruction or lessons on noneducational activities, including but not limited to martial arts, dancing, theater, and music.

D.

(1) Any person who is required to register pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter, who is otherwise not prohibited from using a networking website, and who creates a profile or who uses the functionality of a networking website to contact or attempt to contact other networking website

users shall include in his profile for the networking website an indication that he is a sex offender or child predator and shall include notice of the crime for which he was convicted, the jurisdiction of conviction, a description of his physical characteristics as required by this Section, and his residential address. The person shall ensure that this information is displayed in his profile for the networking website and that such information is visible to, or is able to be viewed by, other users and visitors of the networking website.

(2)

(a) For purposes of this Subsection, "networking website" means an Internet website, the purpose of which is social interaction with other networking website users, which contains profile web pages of the members of the website that include the names or nicknames of such members, that allows photographs and any other personal or personally identifying information to be placed on the profile web pages by such members, and which provides links to other profile web pages on the networking website of friends or associates of such members that can be accessed by other members or visitors to the website. A networking website provides members of, or visitors to, such website the ability to leave messages or comments on the profile web page that are visible to all or some visitors to the profile web page and may also include a form of electronic mail for members of the networking website.

(b) For purposes of this Subsection, "networking website" shall not include any of the following:

- (i) An Internet website the primary purpose of which is the facilitation of commercial transactions involving goods or services between its members or visitors.
- (ii) An Internet website the primary purpose of which is the dissemination of news.
- (iii) An Internet website of a governmental entity.

What are the residence distance restrictions?

LA Rev Stat § 14:91.2

A. The following acts when committed by a person convicted of a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 when the victim is under the age of thirteen years shall constitute the crime of unlawful residence or presence of a sex offender:

(2) The offender establishing a residence within one thousand feet of any of the following:

- (a) Public or private elementary or secondary school.
- (b) Early learning center as defined by R.S. 17:407.33.
- (c) Residence in which child care services are provided by a family child care provider or in-home provider who is registered pursuant to R.S. 17:407.61 et seq.
- (d) Residential home as defined by R.S. 46:1403.

(4) The offender establishing a residence within one thousand feet of any public park or recreational facility.

B. The following acts, when committed by a person convicted of an aggravated offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 when the victim is under the age of thirteen years, shall constitute the crime of unlawful residence or presence of a sex offender:

(2) The establishment of a residence within one thousand feet of any of the following:

- (a) Early learning center as defined by R.S. 17:407.33.
- (b) Residence in which child care services are provided by a family child care provider or in-home provider who is registered pursuant to R.S. 17:407.61 et seq.
- (c) Residential home as defined by R.S. 46:1403.
- (d) Playground.

- (e) Public or private youth center.
- (f) Public swimming pool.
- (g) Free standing video arcade facility.

What are the employment distance restrictions?

LA Rev Stat § 14:91.2

A. The following acts when committed by a person convicted of a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 when the victim is under the age of thirteen years shall constitute the crime of unlawful residence or presence of a sex offender:

- (1) The physical presence of the offender in, on, or within one thousand feet of the school property of any public or private elementary or secondary school or the physical presence in any motor vehicle or other means of conveyance owned, leased, or contracted by such school to transport students to or from school or a school-related activity when persons under the age of eighteen years are present on the school property or in a school vehicle.
- (3) The physical presence of the offender in, on, or within one thousand feet of any of the following:
 - (a) Public park or recreational facility.
 - (b) Early learning center as defined by R.S. 17:407.33.
 - (c) Residence in which child care services are provided by a family child care provider or in-home provider who is registered pursuant to R.S. 17:407.61 et seq.
 - (d) Residential home as defined by R.S. 46:1403.
- (5) The physical presence of the offender in or on public library property.

B. The following acts, when committed by a person convicted of an aggravated offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 when the victim is under the age of thirteen years, shall constitute the crime of unlawful residence or presence of a sex offender:

- (1) The physical presence of the offender in, on, or within one thousand feet of any of the following:
 - (a) Early learning center as defined by R.S. 17:407.33.
 - (b) Residence in which child care services are provided by a family child care provider or in-home provider who is registered pursuant to R.S. 17:407.61 et seq.
 - (c) Residential home as defined by R.S. 46:1403.

LA Rev Stat § 15:553

A. It shall be unlawful for any person who is required to maintain registration pursuant to Chapter 3-B of Title 15 to operate any bus, taxicab, or limousine for hire.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person who is required to maintain registration pursuant to Chapter 3-B of Title 15 to engage in employment as a service worker who goes into a residence to provide any type of service.

C. It shall be unlawful for any person whose offense involved a minor child and who is required to maintain registration pursuant to Chapter 3-B of Title 15 to operate any carnival or amusement ride.

D. It shall be unlawful for any person who is required to maintain registration pursuant to Chapter 3-B of Title 15 to engage in employment as a door-to-door solicitor, peddler, or itinerant vendor selling any type of goods or services including magazines or periodicals or subscriptions to magazines or periodicals.

Is an employer's information included on the public registry?

Yes.

Are online identifiers included on the public registry?

Offenders must register email addresses and internet identifiers. While this information is not included on an offender's registry profile, there is a separate search feature that allows the public to search by specific email addresses or internet identifiers.

LA Rev Stat § 15:542.C

(m) Every e-mail address, online screen name, or other online identifiers used by the offender to communicate on the internet. If the offender uses a static internet protocol address, that address shall also be provided to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Required notice must be given before any online identifier or static internet protocol address is used to communicate on the internet. For purposes of this Subparagraph, "static internet protocol address" is a numerical label assigned to a computer by an internet service provider to be the computer's permanent address on the internet.

Is a state-issued ID required to be labeled?

No. The Louisiana Supreme Court ruled against IDs being labeled with the words "Sex Offender" so the statute LA Rev Stat § 40:1321 is not currently enforced. It is unknown at this time if it will be repealed or revised to require a more subtle code known to law enforcement.

LA Rev Stat § 40:1321

J.(1) Any person required to register as a sex offender with the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information, as required by R.S. 15:542 et seq., shall obtain a special identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections which shall contain a restriction code declaring that the holder is a sex offender. This special identification card shall include the words "sex offender" in all capital letters which are orange in color and shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance. This special identification card shall be carried on the person at all times by the individual required to register as a sex offender.

What is the cost of registration?

LA Rev Stat § 15:542

D. The offender shall pay to the appropriate law enforcement agencies with whom he is required to register, except for the campus law enforcement agency of an institution of postsecondary education, an annual registration fee of sixty dollars to defray the costs of maintaining the record of the offender. The payment of such a fee shall be made in accordance with any rule regarding indigency adopted by the judges of the judicial district court in the jurisdiction or as determined by criteria established by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. The offender shall pay such fee upon the initial registration and on the anniversary thereof. Failure by the offender to pay the fee within thirty days of initial registration shall constitute a failure to register and shall subject the offender to prosecution under the provisions of R.S. 15:542.1.4(A)(3). The offender shall not be prevented from registering in accordance with this Section for failure to pay the annual registration fee.

Registrants are also financially responsible for the direct community notifications required by LA Rev Stat § 15:542.1.

How long can a registrant be in the state for work or education before registration is required?

LA Rev Stat § 15:541

(30)(a) "Worker" or "employee" means a person who engages in or who knows or reasonably should know that he will engage in any type of occupation, employment, work, or volunteer service on a full-time or part-time basis, with or without compensation, within this state for more than seven consecutive days, or an aggregate of thirty days or more in a calendar year.

LA Rev Stat § 15:542.1.3

C. Any nonresident full-time or part-time worker employed in this state who would be required to register in his state of residence shall register with the appropriate law enforcement agencies as provided in R.S.

15:542 within three business days of employment. The provisions of this Subsection shall apply to any person employed in this state, with or without compensation.

D. Nonresident full-time or part-time students enrolled in this state who are required to register in their state of residence shall register within three business days with the appropriate law enforcement agencies as provided in R.S. 15:542.

How long can a registrant visit the state before registration is required?

LA Rev Stat § 15:542.1.3

A. Any person who is convicted or adjudicated of an offense under the laws of another state, or military, territorial, foreign, tribal, or federal law for which R.S. 15:542 requires registration shall be subject to and shall comply with all of the registration requirements of this Chapter within three business days of establishing a residence in Louisiana and shall comply with all notification requirements required in R.S. 15:542.1 within twenty-one days of establishing a residence in Louisiana. Such person shall also notify the bureau within three business days of establishing residence in Louisiana and shall provide the bureau, within thirty days of establishing residence in Louisiana, certified copies of court records pertaining to the offense or offenses which require registration as a sex offender, including but not limited to the bill of information, indictment, court minutes, and final disposition.

LA Rev Stat § 15:541

(22) "Residence" means a dwelling where an offender regularly resides, regardless of the number of days or nights spent there. For those offenders who lack a fixed abode or dwelling, "residence" shall include the area or place where the offender habitually lives, including but not limited to a rural area with no address or a shelter.