

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.

Oregon Sex Offender Registry Requirements

What is the duration of registration?

If petitioning in court: ORS § 163A.120

(1)(a) No sooner than 10 years after termination of supervision on probation, conditional release, parole or post-prison supervision, a person required to report under ORS 163A.010, 163A.015 or 163A.020 may file a petition in circuit court for an order relieving the person of the duty to report. The person must pay the filing fee established under ORS 21.135. A petition may be filed under this section only if:

- (A) The person has only one conviction for a sex crime;
- (B) The sex crime was a misdemeanor or Class C felony or, if committed in another state, would have been a misdemeanor or Class C felony if committed in this state; and
- (C) The person has not been determined to be a predatory sex offender prior to January 1, 2014.

If petitioning the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision: ORS § 163A.125

(1)(a) A person who is required to report as a sex offender under ORS 163A.010, 163A.015 or 163A.020 due to a conviction for a sex crime and is classified as a level one sex offender under ORS 163A.100 (1) may petition the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision to relieve the person from the obligation to report as a sex offender under ORS 163A.010, 163A.015 or 163A.020.

(b) A person who is required to report as a sex offender under ORS 163A.010, 163A.015 or 163A.020 due to being found guilty except for insanity under ORS 161.295 for a sex crime, and is classified as a level one sex offender under ORS 163A.100 (1), may petition the Psychiatric Security Review Board to relieve the person from the obligation to report as a sex offender under ORS 163A.010, 163A.015 or 163A.020.

(c) (A) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, a person described in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection may file the petition no sooner than five years after the date supervision for the sex crime is terminated or, if the person was not subject to supervision for the sex crime, five years after the date the person was discharged from the jurisdiction of the court, Psychiatric Security Review Board or Oregon Health Authority.

(B) A person who was reclassified under subsection (2) of this section from a level two sex offender under ORS 163A.100 (2) to a level one sex offender under ORS 163A.100 (1) may file the petition no sooner than five years after the date of reclassification.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c) of this subsection, if a person is required to report because of a conviction or finding of guilty except for insanity from another United States court as that term is defined in ORS 163A.005, the person may not petition for relief from reporting as a sex offender in Oregon unless the laws of the jurisdiction where the person was convicted or found guilty except for insanity would permit a petition for relief from reporting as a sex offender.

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

ORS § 163A.215

- (2) If the sex offender is classified as a level three sex offender under ORS 163A.100 (3):
- (a) The Department of State Police shall release sex offender information on a website maintained by the department; and
 - (b) The supervising agency or a notifying agency may release sex offender information to:
 - (A) A person that resides with the sex offender;
 - (B) A person with whom the sex offender has a significant relationship;
 - (C) Residential neighbors and churches, community parks, schools and child care centers, convenience stores, businesses and other places that children or other potential victims may frequent;
 - (D) A long term care facility, as defined in ORS 442.015, or a residential care facility, as defined in ORS 443.400, if the agency knows that the sex offender is seeking admission to the facility; and
 - (E) Local or regional media sources.
- (4) If the sex offender is classified as a level two sex offender under ORS 163A.100 (2), the supervising agency or a notifying agency may release sex offender information to the persons or entities described in subsection (2)(b)(A) to (D) of this section.
- (5) If the sex offender is classified as a level one sex offender under ORS 163A.100 (1), the supervising agency or a notifying agency may release sex offender information to a person described in subsection (2)(b)(A) of this section.

What are the residence distance restrictions?

Oregon does not impose a blanket residency restriction on sex offenders. However, registrants released on post-prison supervision or parole may have restrictions [ORS § 144.642].

What are the employment distance restrictions?

None.

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

Yes, however the public registry only lists Level 3 offenders.

Are online identifiers included on the public registry?

No.

Is a state-issued ID required to be labeled?

No.

What is the cost of registration?

ORS § 163A.035

(5) The department shall assess a person who is required to report under ORS 163A.010, 163A.015 or 163A.020 and who is not under supervision a fee of \$70 each year. Moneys received by the department under this subsection are continuously appropriated to the department for the purpose of carrying out the department's duties under ORS 163A.005 to 163A.235. [Formerly 181.810; 2021 c.597 §34]

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

ORS § 163A.020

(2)(a) When a person described in ORS 163A.010 (2) or 163A.015 (2) or subsection (6) of this section attends school or works in this state, resides in another state and is not otherwise required by ORS 163A.010, 163A.015 or 163A.025 to report, the person shall report, in person, to the Department of State Police, a city police department or a county sheriff's office, in the county in which the school or place of work is located, no later than 10 days after:

(A) The first day of school attendance or the 14th day of employment in this state;

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

Visitors to Oregon are not required to register.