

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.

Utah Sex Offender Registry Requirements

What is the duration of registration?

UT Code § 77-41-105

(3) (a) Except as provided in Subsections (3)(b), (c), and (4), an offender shall, for the duration of the sentence and for 10 years after termination of sentence or custody of the division, register each year during the month of the offender's date of birth, during the month that is the sixth month after the offender's birth month, and within three business days after the day on which there is a change of the offender's primary residence, any secondary residences, place of employment, vehicle information, or educational information required to be submitted under Subsection (7).

(c) (i) An offender convicted as an adult of an offense listed in Section 77-41-106 shall, for the offender's lifetime, register each year during the month of the offender's birth, during the month that is the sixth month after the offender's birth month, and also within three business days after the day on which there is a change of the offender's primary residence, any secondary residences, place of employment, vehicle information, or educational information required to be submitted under Subsection (7).

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

No.

What are the residence distance restrictions?

None.

What are the employment distance restrictions?

None.

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

Only if employed at an educational institution. Volunteer locations are also included.

UT Code § 77-41-110

(4) Except as provided in Subsection (5), the Sex Offender and Kidnap Offender Notification and Registration website shall include the following registry information:

- (g) each educational institution in Utah at which the offender is employed, carries on a vocation, or is a student;
- (h) a list of places where the offender works as a volunteer;

Are online identifiers included on the public registry?

No.

UT Code § 77-41-110

(4) Except as provided in Subsection (5), the Sex Offender and Kidnap Offender Notification and Registration website shall include the following registry information:

- (a) all names and aliases by which the offender is or has been known, but not including any online or Internet identifiers;

Is a state-issued ID required to be labeled?

No.

What is the cost of registration?

UT Code § 77-41-111

(1) Each offender required to register under Section 77-41-105 shall, in the month of the offender's birth:

- (a) pay to the department an annual fee of \$100 each year the offender is subject to the registration requirements of this chapter; and
- (b) pay to the registering agency, if it is an agency other than the Department of Corrections, an annual fee of not more than \$25, which may be assessed by that agency for providing registration.

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

UT Code § 77-41-102

(17) "Sex offender" means any individual:

- (c)(i) (A) who is required to register as a sex offender in any other jurisdiction of original conviction;
- (B) who is required to register as a sex offender by any state, federal, or military court; or
- (C) who would be required to register as a sex offender if residing in the jurisdiction of the original conviction regardless of the date of the conviction or any previous registration requirements; and
- (ii) who, in any 12-month period, is in the state for a total of 10 or more days, regardless of whether or not the offender intends to permanently reside in this state;

UT Code § 77-41-105

(1) (a) An offender who enters this state from another jurisdiction is required to register under Subsection (3) and Subsection 77-41-102(9) or (17).

(b) The offender shall register with the department within 10 days after the day on which the offender enters the state, regardless of the offender's length of stay.

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

UT Code § 77-41-102

(17) "Sex offender" means any individual:

- (c)(i) (A) who is required to register as a sex offender in any other jurisdiction of original conviction;
- (B) who is required to register as a sex offender by any state, federal, or military court; or
- (C) who would be required to register as a sex offender if residing in the jurisdiction of the original conviction regardless of the date of the conviction or any previous registration requirements; and
- (ii) who, in any 12-month period, is in the state for a total of 10 or more days, regardless of whether or not the offender intends to permanently reside in this state;

UT Code § 77-41-105

(1) (a) An offender who enters this state from another jurisdiction is required to register under Subsection (3) and Subsection 77-41-102(9) or (17).

(b) The offender shall register with the department within 10 days after the day on which the offender enters the state, regardless of the offender's length of stay.