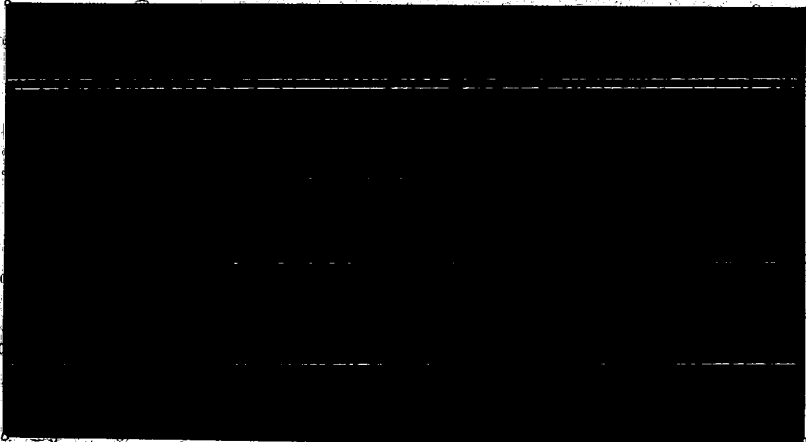




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A Review of State Laws***

***Staci Thomas  
with  
Roxanne Lieb***

***Revised  
February 1995***

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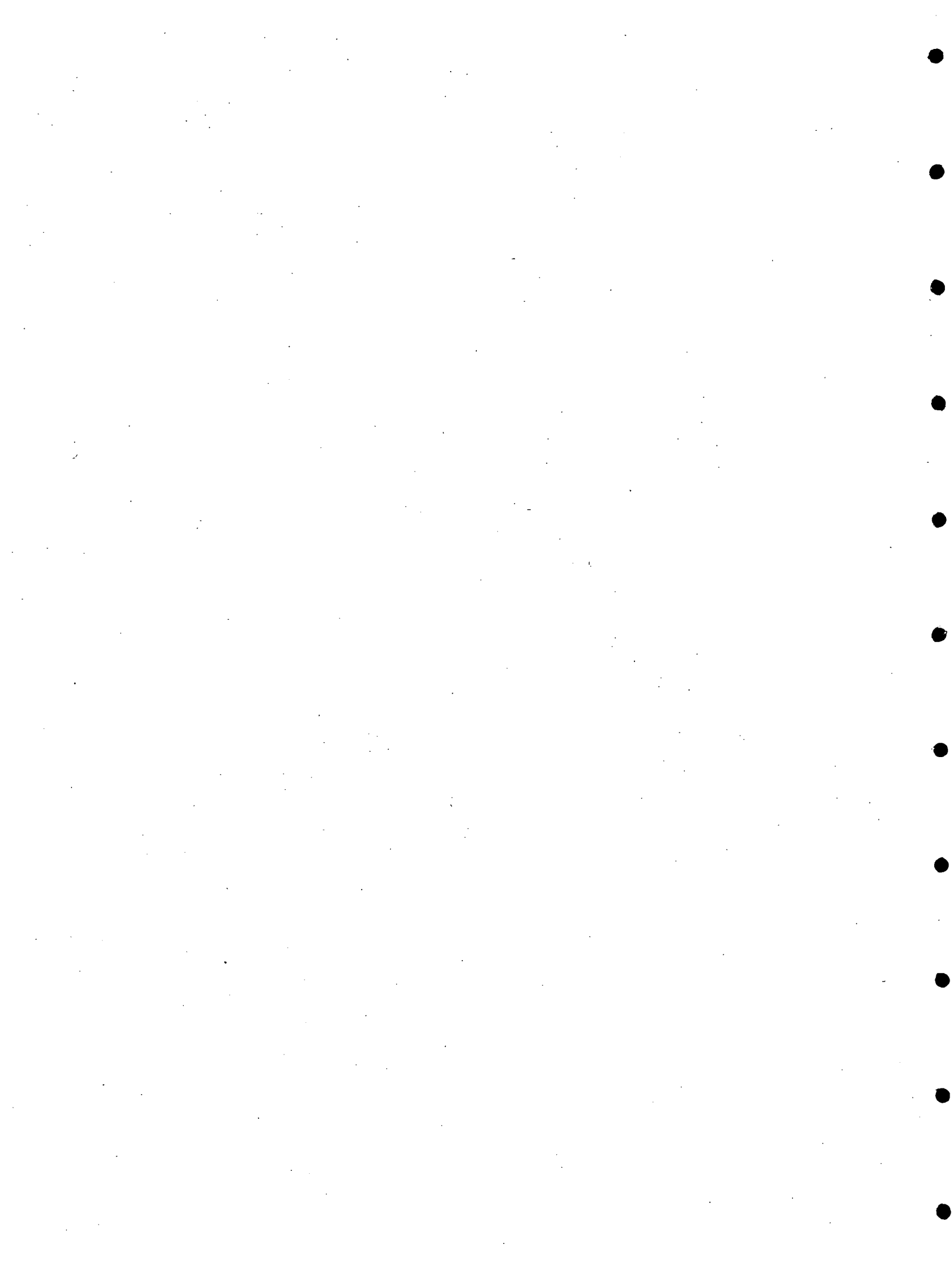
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# **Sex Offender Registration: A Review of State Laws**

Staci Thomas  
with  
Roxanne Lieb

Revised  
*February 1995*

**WASHINGTON STATE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY**

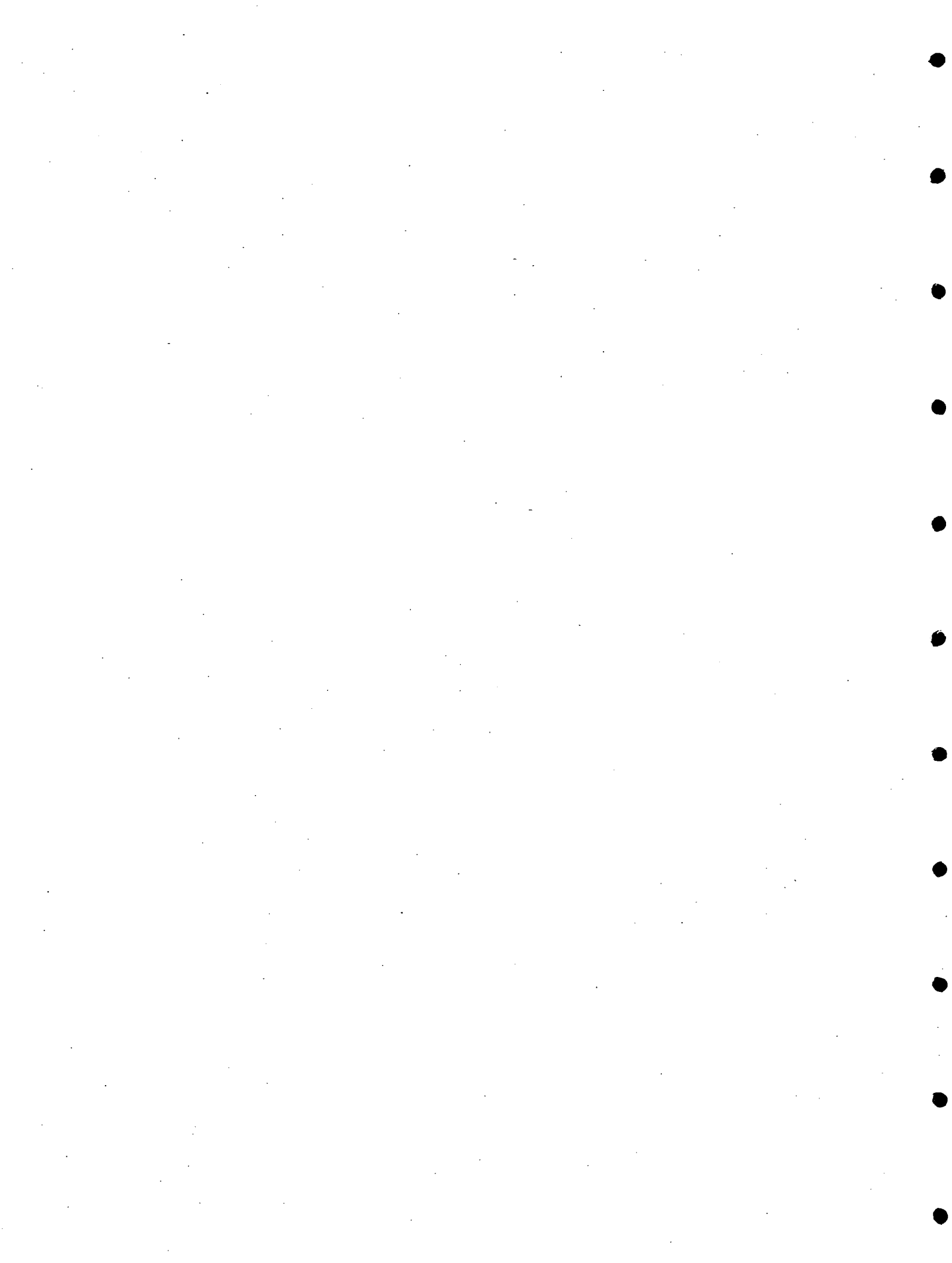
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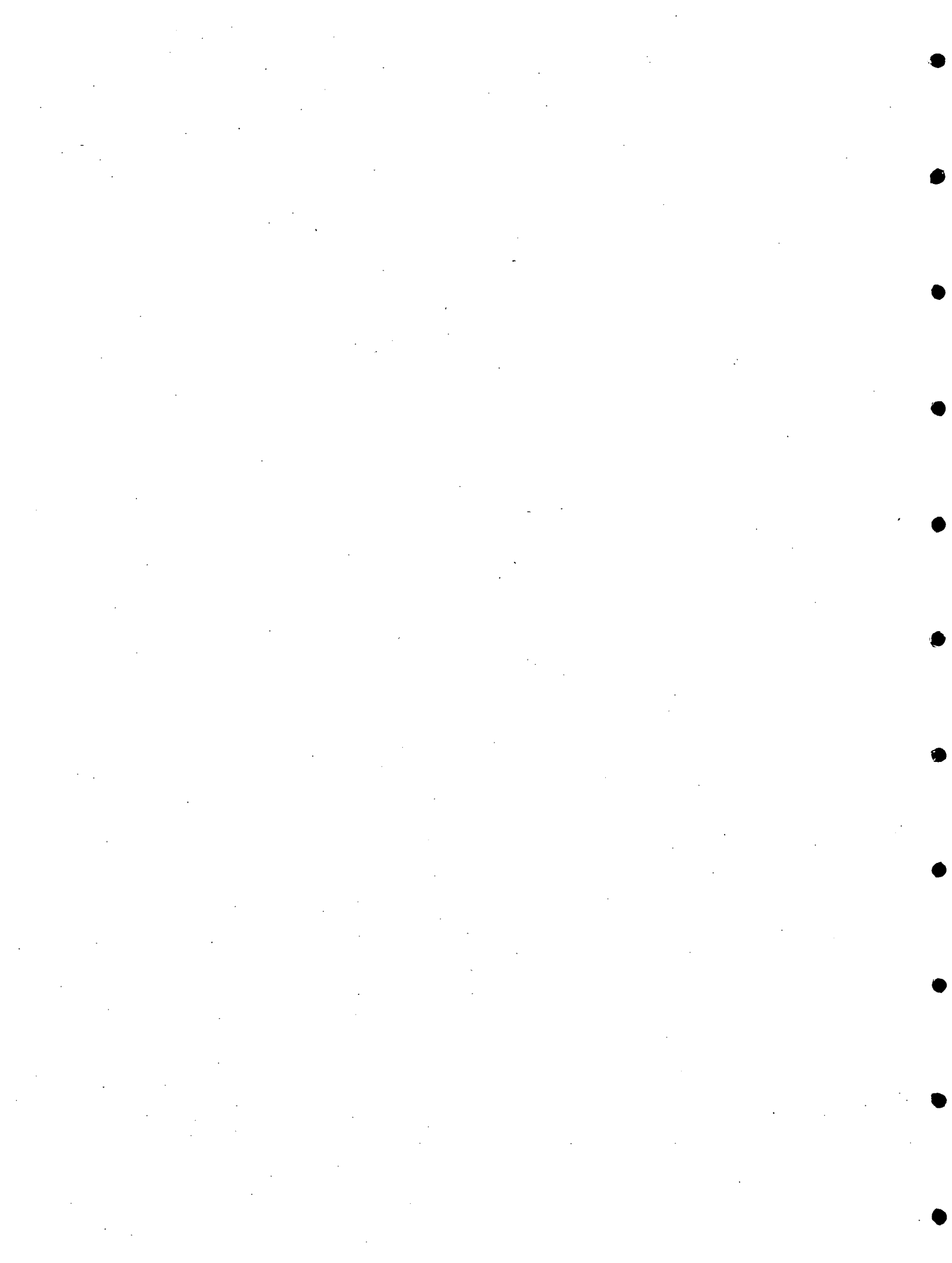
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The authors wish to thank the following persons for their contributions to this report: Susie Coon, Barbara Felver, and Carol Poole. Special thanks also to Judy Schretter of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Arlington, Virginia.



# ***SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION: A REVIEW OF STATE LAWS***

*Revised February 1995*

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Sex offender registration laws require offenders to supply their addresses, and other identifying information, to a state agency or law enforcement with the intent of increasing community protection.

Forty states currently require sex offenders to register; sixteen of these states passed their laws in 1994. Most recently, New Jersey passed an extensive registration law following the sexual assault and murder of a seven-year-old girl by a convicted sex offender residing in her neighborhood.

In four states, legal challenges to registration laws have resulted in decisions that upheld their constitutionality. In three of these states (Arizona, Illinois, and Washington) the courts found that registration is not a form of punishment, and therefore not subject to the Eighth Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. In California, where registration *has* been examined as a form of punishment, the courts have found it not to be cruel and unusual.

The 40 sex offender registration statutes conform in many respects:

- The registry is usually maintained by a state agency.
- Generally, local law enforcement is responsible for collecting information and forwarding it to the administering state agency.
- Typical information obtained includes an offender's name, address, fingerprints, photo, date of birth, social security number, criminal history, place of employment, and vehicle registration. Eight states also collect blood samples for DNA identification; Michigan includes a DNA profile in the registry if available.
- The timeframe for initial registration varies from "prior to release" or "immediately" to one year; the most common timeframe being 30 days or less.
- In most states, the duration of the registration requirement is over 10 years, with 16 states requiring lifetime registration in all or some instances. Most states requiring lifetime registration allow the offender to petition the courts for relief from this duty.
- Most registries are updated only when the offender notifies law enforcement that he has changed residences. Seven states have annual address verification; New Jersey requires verification every 90 days.
- Twenty states specify that registry information is available only to law enforcement and related investigative authorities. The other twenty states allow broader access, ranging from criminal background checks for agencies hiring individuals to work with children, to full public access and community notification.
- Two states (California and Washington) have published compliance rates.



## **Introduction**

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In recent years, state legislatures across the country have examined their sexual assault laws to find ways to increase community protection. Most have attempted to strengthen existing laws by requiring released sex offenders to register with law enforcement or state agencies. Currently, 40 states have such a requirement.

As part of the federal crime bill approved by Congress in August 1994, the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act encourages states to create registries of offenders convicted of crimes against children or sexually violent offenses. States which do not create registries within the next three years will face a ten percent reduction in their federal crime control grant.

Do registration laws increase community protection? This paper describes the debates surrounding this issue, and summarizes key elements of state laws.<sup>1</sup>

## **Policy and Debate**

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A sex offender registration law requires that offenders supply their address and other identifying information to local law enforcement or a state agency. Typically the offender must register following release from confinement and/or during community supervision. Laws in most states apply to *convicted* sex offenders; some states' laws also apply to individuals found by a judge to have *committed* a sex offense (for instance, under a finding of not guilty by reason of insanity). Minnesota extends the requirement to individuals *charged* with a sex offense, whether or not convicted.

Information maintained on the registry varies by state, but at a minimum includes the name, address, and a law enforcement identification number. Some states collect very detailed information, which may include blood samples for DNA identification, employment information, residence history, and vehicle registration numbers. In all cases, the offender is responsible for supplying accurate information, and is penalized for noncompliance.

Sex offender registration is a controversial subject, with one side arguing that it contributes to public safety, and the other side arguing that it impinges on individual rights and is a step towards a "Big Brother" society. These arguments are summarized below.

### **ARGUMENTS FOR REGISTRATION**

Supporters of sex offender registration argue that it contributes to public safety by: 1) creating a registry to assist law enforcement in investigation, 2) establishing legal grounds to hold known

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<sup>1</sup> Information was collected March - April 1992, September - October 1993, and September 1994 - January 1995, from states known to have sex offender registries. Informants were administrators, legislative research staff, legal counsel, or law enforcement officials, as appropriate. This report also uses information provided by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in Arlington, VA, and the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse in Alexandria, VA, which has compiled a report entitled *Legislation Requiring Sex Offenders to Register with a Government Agency*.

offenders found in suspicious circumstances, 3) deterring sex offenders from committing new offenses, and in some cases, 4) offering citizens information so they can protect themselves.

The typical legislative goals are summarized well in the sex offender registration bill passed by the 1994 Alaska Legislature:

*The legislature finds that: (1) sex offenders pose a high risk of reoffending after release from custody, (2) protecting the public from sex offenders is a primary governmental interest, (3) the privacy interests of persons convicted of sex offenses are less important than the government's interest in public safety, and (4) release of certain information about sex offenders to public agencies and the general public will assist in protecting the public safety.*

Once created, the registry becomes a tool that law enforcement uses to solve crimes or, ideally, to prevent them. If a sex offense is committed and no suspect is located, the registry can be used to identify potential suspects who live in the area, or who have a pattern of similar crimes. States vary in their decisions on which offenders to include in the registry: some register sex offenders with child victims (Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, and Wyoming); some register the most serious categories of offenders (Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Virginia, and Wyoming) or repeat offenders (Ohio, Florida and Arkansas); and some register all sex offenders, regardless of the seriousness of the crime or the age of the victim. California and Montana register arsonists in addition to sex offenders-- California also registers narcotics offenders. In addition to its 1993 sex offender registration law, Florida has maintained a registry of all felony offenders since 1957.

Registration laws also create legal grounds to hold sex offenders who do not comply with registration and are later found in suspicious circumstances. For example, if a convicted sex offender is observed loitering around a playground, and when stopped by the police is found not to have registered, the offender can be charged and prosecuted for failure to register. Law enforcement representatives often argue that registration laws, thus, prevent crimes because the police can intervene before a potential victim is harmed. Therefore, some states pass a registration law without expecting a high rate of voluntary compliance, but still anticipate a law enforcement benefit.

Another intended effect of registration is psychological. Once registered, offenders know they are being monitored. Many lawmakers argue that such knowledge discourages sex offenders from reoffending. Also, some lawmakers believe that a registration requirement will deter potential first-time sex offenders.

Half of the states with registration limit access to this information to law enforcement and related investigative authorities. The other 20 states allow various levels of public access, ranging from background checks for potential employees/volunteers to work with children, to full public access. Access to the registry, or the active release of information by law enforcement or school districts, is intended as a means of citizen protection, particularly for parents to protect their children.

## **ARGUMENTS AGAINST REGISTRATION**

Several arguments against sex offender registration often surface during legislative deliberations. These arguments can be summarized as follows:

### **Civil Liberties:**

**Registration programs are inconsistent with the goals of a society committed to protecting individual liberties.** Registration is a step toward a "Big Brother" society, or a violation of offenders' rights. Released sex offenders have paid their debt to society and must not be subjected to further punishment.

### **Offender Motivation:**

**By forcing sex offenders to register, society sends a message to these individuals that they are not to be trusted, that they are bad and dangerous people.** Such a message can work against efforts to rehabilitate offenders, and inadvertently encourage antisocial behaviors. The offender can use the law to rationalize further crimes: "If society thinks I'm a permanent threat, I guess I am and there's nothing I can do to stop myself."

**Registration laws encourage sex offenders to evade the attention of law enforcement.** Some sex offenders, choosing not to comply with the law, will conceal their whereabouts, making investigation of sexual assaults more difficult.

### **Public Safety:**

**Registration creates a false sense of security.** Citizens may rely too heavily on the registry, not realizing that the majority of sex offenders never appear on registration lists. The reasons are many: only a small proportion of sex crimes are reported, and an even smaller number result in convictions; many offenders plea-bargain to nonsexual offenses; sex offender registration laws can apply to limited categories of offenders; and many offenders were convicted prior to passage of the law. In addition, not all offenders register. For all these reasons, only a small percentage of sex offenders actually appear on any list.

**Registration of sex offenders implies that these offenders are the most dangerous, whereas other types of offenders present similar or greater risks.** How helpful is it for someone to know that a convicted sex offender lives next door, as compared to knowing that a neighbor is a convicted murderer, drug dealer, or armed robber?

**Registration will encourage citizen vigilantism.** For states where the registration list is public information, citizens may threaten and take action against offenders. The harassment may also be extended to family members of offenders.<sup>2</sup>

### **Victim Consequences:**

**If made public, a list of registered sex offenders may inadvertently disclose the identity of incest victims.** In cases of intra-familial sex offenses, a list of offenders identifies some victims by family, if not by name. Such a violation of privacy may compound a victim's trauma.

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<sup>2</sup> Harassment following community notification is further discussed in *Community Notification: A Survey of Law Enforcement*, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, December 1993.

## *Efficiency:*

*Rather than expend public funds on registration, the state should direct its resources toward other criminal justice activities.* A list of all convicted sex offenders, including names, addresses and other information, is expensive to create and maintain. Funds could be better spent on such areas as treatment of incarcerated sex offenders, or intensive supervision of a small group of the most serious sex offenders.

## LEGAL CHALLENGES

Sex offender registration laws have been subject to legal challenges in at least four states. In Arizona, Illinois, and Washington, the courts have found that registration is not a form of punishment, and, therefore, not subject to the Eighth Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. In California, where registration *has* been examined as a form of punishment, the courts have found it not to be cruel and unusual. Challenges on the basis of due process and equal protection have also failed. Registration has not been found to unreasonably infringe on the offender's rights to travel or privacy.<sup>3</sup>

Juvenile registration was challenged and upheld in Washington State in 1994. The defendant claimed that, as a juvenile, he could not be required to register because he had not actually been "convicted." The court found that the legislative intent behind the statute compelled application to juvenile offenders. The court also found that the juvenile's duty to register arises pursuant to the statutory mandate, and, therefore, survives the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. As such, the juvenile's duty to register does not automatically end upon reaching 21 years of age.<sup>4</sup>

## Background of Registration Laws

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### CHRONOLOGY

There are three distinct periods in the passage of sex offender registration laws: an early period from 1944-67, a period of light activity from 1985-90, and a period of intense activity from 1991-94. The majority of laws were enacted during the most recent period, with 16 states passing registration laws in 1994.

California has the nation's oldest sex offender registration law, enacted in 1944. Arizona passed its first sex offender registration law in 1951, though this law has been repealed and replaced by a 1985 statute. The next four oldest laws were enacted in the decade of 1957-67, in Florida, Nevada, Ohio and Alabama. (Florida's 1957 law required registration of all felony offenders; in 1993 the state enacted a new statute specifically for sex offender registration.) A hiatus of 18 years appears to have

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<sup>3</sup> For additional information on constitutional challenges to sex offender registration statutes, see *The Constitutionality of Statutes Requiring Convicted Sex Offenders to Register with Law Enforcement*, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, December 22, 1994.

<sup>4</sup> National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, *The Constitutionality of Statutes Requiring Convicted Sex Offenders to Register With Law Enforcement*, December 22, 1994.

followed; none of the current laws were passed in the period between 1968 and 1984. Of the 40 states with sex offender registration laws, all but 4 were enacted after 1984. Since 1991, 28 of the 40 laws have been passed, and a total of 12 have been amended.

## **Overview of Registration Laws**

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### **ADMINISTRATION**

Maintenance of a sex offender registry is generally overseen by a state agency such as the state police or departments of corrections, institutions, or probation and parole. The state attorney general often has a central role as well. Local law enforcement is generally responsible for collecting information and forwarding it to the administering state agency. Exceptions are Delaware, Maine, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Oregon, where the state is responsible for both collecting the information and maintaining the central registry.

### **INFORMATION COLLECTED**

Generally, the state obtains an offender's name, address, fingerprints, photo, date of birth, social security number, and criminal history at the time of registration. In some states, fingerprints and photographs are already on file with the administering department, so other information is simply updated. Other information frequently collected includes place of employment and vehicle registration. Eight states collect blood samples for DNA analysis: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; Michigan includes a DNA profile if available.

### **TIME PERIOD FOR REGISTRATION**

Offenders in different states have varying timeframes for *initial registration*, ranging from "immediately" or prior to release (Connecticut, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) up to one year following release (Oregon), with a more common range of 7 to 30 days (23 states). The *duration* of the registration requirement ranges from the duration of probation/parole (Georgia, Indiana, and Texas) to life, and is typically 10 years or longer.

Thirteen states require lifetime registration for some or all offenders. Most of these states allow the offender to petition the courts for relief from this duty after a specified time period. Four other states, while not specifying lifetime registration, require the offender to petition the courts to end the registration requirement. A typical example of this petition process is found in Mississippi's legislation:

*Any person having a duty to register under Section 1 of this act may petition the circuit court to be relieved of that duty...The court shall consider the nature of the registrable offense committed and the criminal and relevant noncriminal behavior of the petitioner both before and after conviction, and it may consider other factors. The court may relieve the petitioner of the duty to register only if the petitioner shows, with clear and convincing evidence, that future registration of the petitioner will not serve the purposes of this act.*

Eight states vary the length of the registration requirement according to the seriousness of the offense (Colorado, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming) or the number of convictions (Alaska, Kansas, and Michigan). Oklahoma allows an exceptional two-year requirement for offenders who complete a state-approved sex offender treatment program (otherwise, the duration is ten years). In Georgia, Indiana, and Texas, registration ends with completion of parole or probation. Minnesota adds five years to the registration requirement if an offender fails to comply with the law.

Under the federal crime bill's registration act, offenders convicted of a crime against a child, or a sexually violent offense, are required to register for ten years following release or placement on supervision; sexually violent predators must register until it can be determined that the offender no longer suffers from a mental abnormality or personality disorder which makes him likely to commit a predatory, sexually violent offense.

### **UPDATING ADDRESSES AND ADDRESS VERIFICATION**

Addresses must be updated in order for the registry to maintain its usefulness to law enforcement and the public. Generally, offenders are relied upon to notify authorities of new addresses; most states allow the offender 10 days to give change-of-address notification. Minnesota and New Jersey require the offender to notify the appropriate authorities *prior* to residing at a new address.

Seven states require offenders to verify their registration information annually (Alaska, California, New Hampshire, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin); New Jersey will require verification every 90 days.

In compliance with the federal crime bill's registration act, states are required to periodically verify a registered offender's address; annually, for an offender convicted of an offense against a child or a sexually violent offense, and every 90 days for a sexually violent predator. Each state law enforcement agency will send a non-forwardable verification form to the last-reported address; the offender is required to return this form, by mail, within ten days of receipt.

### **OUT-OF-STATE CONVICTIONS**

Most states' registration laws apply equally to offenders convicted in another state.

Kentucky, Minnesota, and Oregon require offenders coming into the state to register only if they are currently on probation or parole. In Arkansas, where registration is required after two convictions for sex offenses against a child, an out-of-state conviction will be counted.

The federal crime bill's registration act requires offenders moving to another state to register with law enforcement in the new state within ten days of establishing residence, *if* the new state has a registration requirement.

### **NONCOMPLIANCE**

The penalty for failure to register ranges from a misdemeanor to a felony. For offenders released under community supervision, noncompliance is frequently punished by revocation of parole or

probation. California, Delaware, South Carolina, and Utah impose a *mandatory* confinement of 90 days for noncompliance. Other states impose confinement ranging from one to five years, and/or a fine of up to \$5,000. Eleven states (California, Colorado, Delaware, Indiana, Louisiana, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming) increase the severity of the penalty for repeat failures to register. California, Mississippi, Oregon, and Washington vary the severity of the penalty according to the severity of the offense for which the offender is registering. Minnesota punishes noncompliance by requiring the offender to register for an additional five years.

## ACCESS TO REGISTRIES

States have various provisions regarding access to registry information. Twenty states specify that registry information is available only to law enforcement and investigative authorities. Twenty states allow some type of access, ranging from criminal background checks to full public access and community notification.

In California, the Department of Justice will operate a "900" telephone number that the public may call to determine if a specific individual is a felony child molester; the caller must already have specific identifying information. In addition, California's Department of Justice will make a subdirectory of sexual habitual offenders available to local law enforcement, who may regulate public access; this subdirectory will *not* include exact addresses, or criminal history other than the crime for which the offender is registering. In Montana, the law does not specifically prohibit the release of information, but the public has not yet requested access to the registry.

## COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Concurrent with registration laws, some states have passed notification legislation designed to inform communities about convicted offenders. Notification programs can be directed at a number of different audiences, including: law enforcement, victims and witnesses connected to specific offenders, school districts, and citizens in a particular neighborhood or community. Some states allow victims and witnesses to enroll in a program which lets them know where the offender is located during confinement, and where and when the release occurs. Other states require the departments of prisons or parole to inform local law enforcement when an offender believed to be dangerous is released from prison and intends to reside in a specific community.

As part of the federal crime bill, states may allow law enforcement agencies to release relevant registration information to the public when necessary for the public's protection. The name of an offender's victim may *not* be released. Louisiana, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington already have full-scale community notification programs for sex offenders judged to pose a serious public threat.

Louisiana has a three-step notification process, with responsibility placed on the offender: 1) the offender places a two-day notification in the local newspaper, which must include the name, offense committed, and address; 2) the offender provides this same information to the local school superintendent; and 3) the offender sends postcards of notification (with the same information used in steps one and two) to all neighbors within a three-block radius, or one square mile if in a rural area.

In New Jersey, the county prosecutors where the offender was convicted and where the offender plans to reside, together with appropriate law enforcement, assess an offender's risk of reoffense. The

county prosecutor where the offender will reside consults with local law enforcement to determine the means of providing community notification for sex offenders believed to be at a high risk to reoffend. For offenders determined to be a moderate risk, organizations in the community--including schools, churches, and youth organizations--are notified.

Oregon's notification procedures include flyers, news articles, and "stop" signs posted on the offender's residence. These signs, which resemble actual stop signs, read: "Stop, Sex Offender Residence," and include the address and phone number for the Department of Corrections. The supervising probation or parole officer in the county where the offender resides "develop[s] a notification plan based on the offender's crime/behavior and the make-up of the community."<sup>5</sup>

Washington's community notification law authorizes law enforcement to release "relevant and necessary" information about convicted sex offenders to the public. Notification activities have included front-page news articles, flyers and posters, and canvassing of neighborhoods.<sup>6</sup> Some newspapers print the names of sex offenders registered in their counties.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Ten states address the confidentiality of the registry information. Most of these states consider violations of this confidentiality a misdemeanor; Arizona, however, considers this crime a felony. Michigan specifies that violators may be punishable by up to 90 days imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$500. California states that the use of the registry information to commit a felony is punishable by a five-year prison term in addition to any other applicable punishment. Other states make reference to confidentiality under separate statutes which address "private data" or "criminal history."

## **JUVENILE REGISTRATION**

Most states do not require juvenile offenders to register (except when convicted under adult statutes). States that routinely seal or destroy juvenile records are generally unable to impose a registration requirement upon juveniles because of confidentiality laws.

Thirteen states have imposed a registration requirement on juvenile sex offenders (California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin). Washington registers juveniles and keeps records indefinitely, requiring both adult and juvenile Class A felony sex offenders to register for life, Class B sex felons for 15 years following release, and Class C sex felons for 10 years. Delaware and Rhode Island destroy juvenile registration records when the offender reaches age 25; Texas, where the registration requirement extends only through the duration of parole in any case, destroys juvenile records at age 21. California, Michigan, New Jersey, and South Carolina can potentially apply lifetime registration requirements to juvenile offenders.

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<sup>5</sup> *Guidelines for Sex Offender Notification and Registration*, Sex Offender Supervision Network Training Committee, chaired by Larry Cramer, Clackamas County Community Corrections, January 1994.

<sup>6</sup> For examples of community notification, see *Community Notification Press Review*, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, July 1992. See also, *Community Notification: A Survey of Law Enforcement*, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, December 1993.



## COSTS

The initial cost of implementing a new registration law varies, depending on the need for investment in new equipment. In Oklahoma and Oregon, existing electronic systems were easily adapted to accommodate registration information, with nominal added costs. Other states created entirely new information systems. In Washington State, where a new system was created in 1990, the total start-up costs were \$120,000.<sup>7</sup> California has been updating its registration technology in recent years, with investments in computers and other equipment.

Annual costs may include data collection and entry, administration of the central registry, administration of registration forms, program evaluation, compliance monitoring, and enforcement. Maintenance of a central registry generally requires a small staff. Most states provide funds for maintenance and administration of a central registry, but enforcement and local administrative costs are generally borne by local governments. Washington State allocates over \$50,000 annually to reimburse local sheriff's departments for administrative costs.

Active enforcement of registration laws is costly, requiring law enforcement to contact registered offenders periodically, either by mail or in person. In many states the level of enforcement varies by local jurisdiction, depending on the availability of funds. Most states enforce their registration laws passively, waiting for noncompliant offenders to come to the attention of law enforcement through suspicious behavior or new offenses; such states have no way of knowing how many sex offenders fail to register.

## EVALUATING REGISTRATION LAWS

Most of the laws were enacted recently and have not been evaluated. Only California and Washington State have produced written evaluations. A 1988 study by the California Department of Justice found that adult sex offenders released from prison in 1973 and 1981 had compliance rates of 54 and 72 percent, respectively.<sup>8</sup> In 1991, Washington's compliance rate was 76 percent.<sup>9</sup> Thus, in both California and Washington, approximately three out of four sex offenders required to register actually did so. This compliance rate is much higher than predicted by critics of registration laws.

Significantly, high rates of voluntary compliance are not essential for a registration law to have law enforcement benefits. If a complete list of released sex offenders who *should* have registered is routinely produced by the state prison system, then law enforcement can choose whether to actively pursue those not in compliance, or to enforce passively, reserving noncompliance charges for offenders whose behavior draws the attention of law enforcement. In several Washington State counties, local authorities conduct thorough background checks on all released offenders and use the information--regardless of compliance--as an investigative tool.

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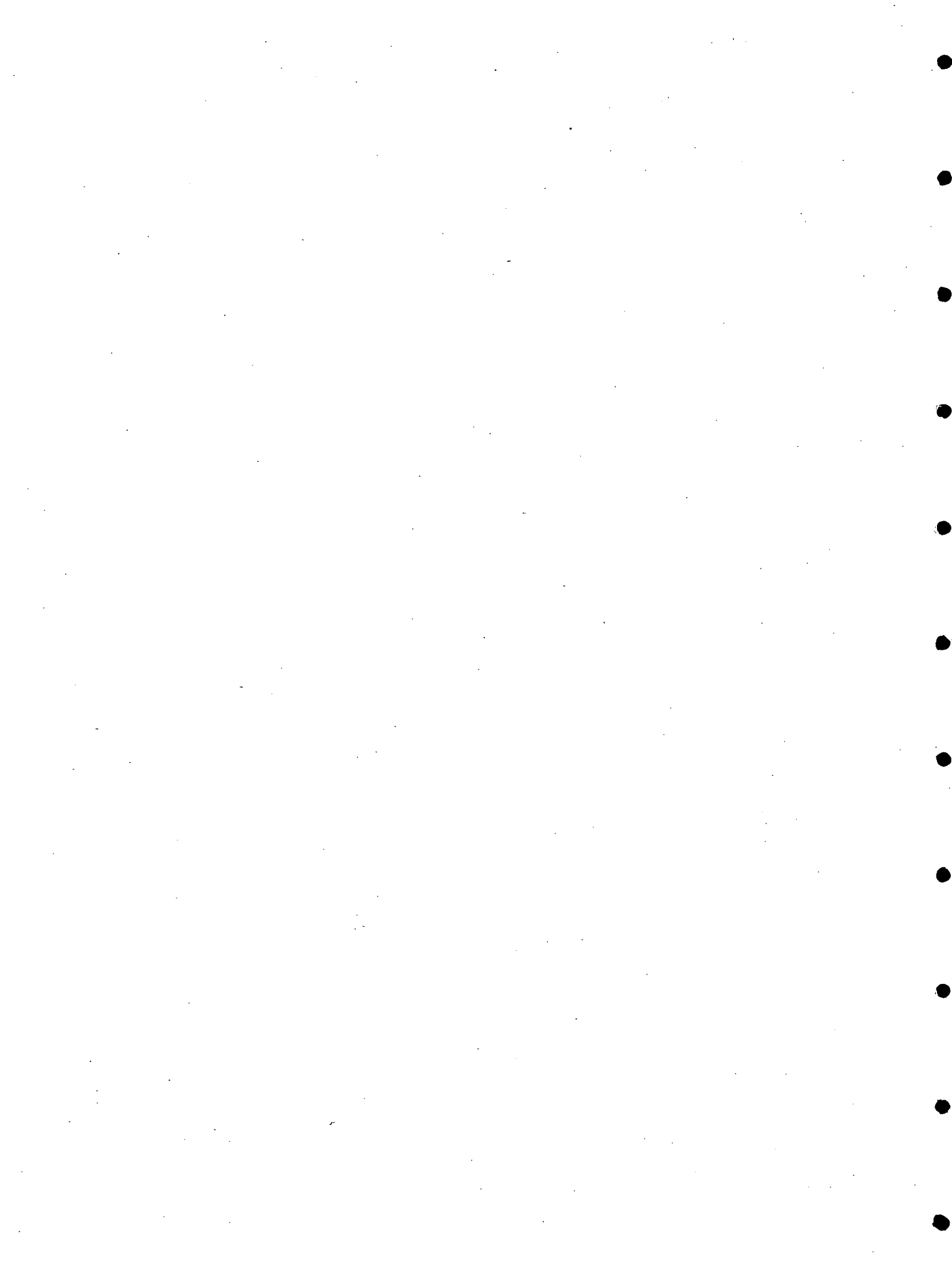
<sup>7</sup> Washington State Institute for Public Policy, *Cost of Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification in Washington State*, February 1995.

<sup>8</sup> California Department of Justice, *Effectiveness of Statutory Requirements for the Registration of Sex Offenders*, 1988.

<sup>9</sup> Washington State Institute for Public Policy, *Sex Offender Registration in Washington State: Compliance, 1991*, January 1992. State Patrol records have been used to calculate the percentage of sex offenders released from confinement who have registered. As of December 1, 1994, 79 percent of sex offenders required to register have done so.

In addition to measuring compliance, California's 1988 study looked at the *recidivism rates* of released sex offenders, and has examined the extent to which registration actually assists in the investigation of sex crimes. A 15-year follow-up study was conducted of sex offenders first arrested in 1973. Nearly half (49 percent) of this group were re-arrested for some type of offense between 1973 and 1988, and 20 percent were re-arrested for a sex offense. Those whose first conviction was rape (by force or threat) had the highest recidivism rate--64 percent for any offense and 25 percent for a sex offense.

Based on the responses of 420 criminal justice agencies, the California study found that a large proportion of criminal justice investigators believed the registration system was effective in locating released or paroled sex offenders and apprehending suspected sex offenders. For this reason, the vast majority of those surveyed believed the registration requirement should be continued. Approximately one-half of the respondents believed that registration deterred offenders from committing new sex crimes.



**TABLE 1**

**States with Sex Offender Registration Laws**

\* Shaded rows indicates states that passed registration statutes in 1994.

<b>STATE (Year Enacted)</b>	<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>	<b>OFFENDERS REQUIRED TO REGISTER</b>	<b>INFORMATION COLLECTED (In addition to name and address)</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATING AGENCY</b>
<b>Alabama</b> <i>Revised</i> (1967) (1994)	Ron Cunningham Criminal Justice Information Center (205) 242-4900	Adult sex offenders	DNA sample (DNA sample to be kept in separate database)	State Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement
<b>Alaska</b> (1994)	Jim Hanley Assistant Attorney General (907) 269-6250	Adult sex offenders	Place of employment, sex offense committed, date of convictions, place and court of convictions, aliases, drivers license number; may take photo and fingerprints	State Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement
<b>Arizona</b> (1985)	Eva Skelton Department of Public Safety, Central Records (602) 223-2229  Nancy Swetnam Administrator for the Courts (602) 542-9517	Adult sex offenders	Fingerprints, photo, DNA sample, other identifying information	State Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement
<b>Arkansas</b> (1987)	Karen Curry Office of Prosecutor Coordinator (501) 682-3671	Habitual adult sex offenders (convicted a second or subsequent time after 1987), whose victim is under 18	Fingerprints, photo, other identifying information	State Police, local law enforcement
<b>California</b> <i>Latest revision</i> (1944) (1994)	Marty Langley Dept of Justice (916) 227-3288	Adult and juvenile sex offenders; offenders found to be sexually motivated	Fingerprints, photo, drivers license number, vehicle license plate number, criminal history, other identifying information which may include blood and saliva samples for DNA analysis	State Department of Justice, local law enforcement
<b>Colorado</b> (1991)	Gray Buckley Bureau of Investigations (303) 239-4300	Adult and juvenile sex offenders	Fingerprints, photo, other identifying information including place of employment	State Bureau of Investigation, local law enforcement
<b>Connecticut</b> (1994)	Nick Gentile Board of Parole (203) 568-4229	Adult sex offenders	Blood sample for DNA analysis, aliases, social security number, inmate number, conviction, date and place of conviction, sentence termination date, physical description, photo fingerprints	Board of Parol, Department of Corrections, local law enforcement

<b>STATE (Year Enacted)</b>	<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>	<b>OFFENDERS REQUIRED TO REGISTER</b>	<b>INFORMATION COLLECTED (In addition to name and address)</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATING AGENCY</b>
<b>Delaware</b> (1994)	Susan Purcell Dept of Justice (302) 577-2055	Adult and juvenile sex offenders (juvenile information may be destroyed at age 25)	Fingerprints, photo	State Department of Justice, State Police
<b>Florida</b> (1993)	Wayne Quinsey Division of Criminal Justice Information Systems (904) 487-1179	Violent sex offenders and repeat sex offenders	Fingerprints, photo, other identifying information including physical description, place of employment, dates of conviction and release	State Department of Law Enforcement, local law enforcement
<b>Georgia</b> (1994)	Michael Light Pardons and Paroles (404) 651-5897	Adult sex offenders with a child victim	Conviction, date of parole	State Department of Pardons and Paroles, county sheriff
<b>Idaho</b> (1993)	Bob Taylor Bureau of Criminal Investigation (208) 884-7135	Adult and juvenile sex offenders	Fingerprints, photo, other identifying information including physical description, description of crime	State Bureau of Criminal Identification, local law enforcement
<b>Illinois</b> <i>Revised</i> (1986) (1993)	Rich Lingle State Department of Police Intelligence Bureau (217) 785-2316	Adult and juvenile felony sex offenders whose victim is under 18	Address only (fingerprints, other information and DNA already on file)	State Police, local law enforcement
<b>Indiana</b> (1994)	Catherine O'Conner Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (317) 232-2580	Adult sex offenders with victims under 18	Aliases, DOB, physical description, social security number, drivers license number, conviction and sentence imposed if applicable	State Criminal Justice Institute, local law enforcement
<b>Kansas</b> <i>Revised</i> (1993) (1994)	Kathleen Bledsoe State Bureau of Investigations (913) 296-8200	Adult violent sex offenders	Fingerprints, photo, other identifying information including date of conviction	State Bureau of Investigations; Department of Corrections, local law enforcement
<b>Kentucky</b> (1994)	Hansel Hill State Police Data Processing (502) 227-8700	Adult felony sex offenders	Social security number, DOB, physical description, aliases, vehicle registration data, description of crime	Kentucky State Police, local probation/parole officer
<b>Louisiana</b> (1992)	Bill Price Department of Probation and Parole (504) 342-5826	Adult sex offenders	Fingerprints, photo, place of employment, place and date of conviction, other identifying info	State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, local law enforcement

<b>STATE</b> <i>(Year Enacted)</i>	<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>	<b>OFFENDERS REQUIRED TO REGISTER</b>	<b>INFORMATION COLLECTED</b> <i>(In addition to name and address)</i>	<b>ADMINISTRATING AGENCY</b>
<b>Maine</b> <i>(1991)</i>	Wendy Littlefield State Bureau of Identification (207) 624-7009	Serious adult sex offenders whose victim is under 16	Address only	State Bureau of Identification
<b>Michigan</b> <i>(1994)</i>	Det. Sgt. Robert Carr State Police (517) 336-6683	Adult and juvenile sex offenders	Social security number, conviction (including original charge if convicted of lesser offense), physical description, blood type and whether DNA profile available, photo	State Police, local law enforcement
<b>Minnesota</b> <i>Revised (1991) (1994)</i>	Special Agent Gary Dahl Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (612) 642-0610	Adults and juvenile sex offenders	Fingerprints, photo, DNA sample (required by another statute), other identifying info	State Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections
<b>Mississippi</b> <i>(1994)</i>	Capt. Melvin Maxwell Criminal Investigation Bureau (601) 987-1564	Adult sex offenders	Place of employment, conviction, date and place of conviction, aliases, social security number, DOB, photo, fingerprints, blood sample for DNA analysis.	State Department of Public Safety, county sheriff
<b>Missouri</b> <i>(1994)</i>	Lee Evens Senate Research (314) 751-4666	Adult sex offenders	Phone number, place of employment, crime committed, date and place of crime, date and place of conviction, photo, fingerprints	State Highway Patrol, local law enforcement
<b>Montana</b> <i>Revised (1989) (1991)</i>	Ted Clack Department of Institutions (406) 444-4907	Adult sex offenders	DOB, physical description, description of offense	State Department of Corrections and Human Services, local law enforcement
<b>Nevada</b> <i>Revised (1961) (1991)</i>	Nancy Tiffany Department of Probation and Parole (702) 687-5040	Adult sex offenders	Fingerprints, photo, address, and other identifying info	State Department of Probation and Parole, local law enforcement
<b>New Hampshire</b> <i>(1993)</i>	Wendy Howard State Police (603) 271-2663	Adult sex offenders	Physical description, employer's address	State Department of Safety, local law enforcement

<b>STATE</b> <i>(Year Enacted)</i>	<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>	<b>OFFENDERS REQUIRED TO REGISTER</b>	<b>INFORMATION COLLECTED</b> <i>(In addition to name and address)</i>	<b>ADMINISTRATING AGENCY</b>
<b>New Jersey</b> (1994)	Ann Stefane Office of Legislative Services Law and Public Safety (609) 984-0231	Adult and juvenile sex offenders	Social security number, age, DOB, race, sex, physical description, address of current temporary residence, date and place of employment, date and place of each conviction, indictment number, adjudication or acquittal by reason of insanity, description of crime, fingerprints, signed statement of having been advised of registration requirement	Superintendent of State Police, Department of Corrections, Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Human Services, Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department of Law and Public Safety, Attorney General, local law enforcement
<b>North Dakota</b> (1991) <i>Revised</i> (1993)	Bob Helton Bureau of Criminal Investigations (701) 221-5500	Adult sex offenders; adult non-sex offenders against children	Fingerprints, photo, place of employment, date and place of conviction, description of offense, other identifying information	State Bureau of Criminal Investigations, local law enforcement
<b>Ohio</b> (1963)	Greg Berquist Bureau of Criminal Investigations (614) 852-2556	Adult sex offenders convicted 2 or more times	Fingerprints, photo	State Bureau of Criminal Investigations, local law enforcement and courts
<b>Oklahoma</b> (1989) <i>Revised</i> (1991)	Sharon Neumann Department of Corrections (405) 425-2593	Adult sex offenders	Fingerprints, photo, physical description, DOB, criminal history, place of employment, vehicle registration	State Department of Corrections
<b>Oregon</b> (1989) <i>Revised</i> (1991)	Bob Sundstrom State Police (503) 378-3720 x4410	Adult sex offenders	Physical description, description of offense (other information on file)	State Police
<b>Rhode Island</b> (1992)	Steven White Attorney General's Office (401) 274-4400	Adult and juvenile sexual assault offenders, including attempted offenses	Fingerprints, photo, signed statement	State Attorney General, local law enforcement
<b>South Carolina</b> (1994)	Ann Hasty Kirkland Correctional Institution (803) 896-2040	Adults and juveniles convicted of certain sex and other offenses	Name, photo, statement of crime	State Law Enforcement Division, county sheriff

<b>STATE</b> <i>(Year Enacted)</i>	<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>	<b>OFFENDERS REQUIRED TO REGISTER</b>	<b>INFORMATION COLLECTED</b> <i>(In addition to name and address)</i>	<b>ADMINISTRATING AGENCY</b>
<b>South Dakota</b> (1994)	Jackle Storm, Attorney Legislative Research Council (605) 773-3251  Judy Schneider Attorney General's Office, Division of Criminal Investigations (605) 773-3331	Adult sex offenders	Aliases, complete description, photo, fingerprints, length of time at residence, length of time expected to remain at that residence	Division of Criminal Investigation, local law enforcement
<b>Tennessee</b> (1994)	David Jennings Legal Counsel Bureau of Investigation (615) 741-0430	Adult sex offenders	Aliases, date and place of birth, social security number, drivers license number, conviction, place and length of employment, address and length of residence; if on supervised release--name, address, and phone number of person responsible for supervision	Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, local law enforcement
<b>Texas</b> <i>Revised</i> (1991) (1993)	Paul Jordan Criminal Intelligence Service, Department of Public Safety (512) 465-2200	Adult and juvenile sex offenders (except indecent exposure)	Fingerprints, photo, place of employment, other identifying information	State Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement
<b>Utah</b> <i>Latest revision</i> (1987) (1994)	Michelle Rodriguiz Dept of Corrections (801) 265-5626	Adult sex offenders	Vehicle description, criminal history, DOB, other identifying information	State Department of Corrections
<b>Virginia</b> (1994)	Dana Sherard State Crime Commission (804) 225-4534  Betty Jo Grubb State Police (804) 674-2138	Adult felony sex offenders	Aliases, date and locality of conviction, DOB, social security number, description of offense	State Police
<b>Washington</b> <i>Revised</i> (1990) (1991)	Susie Coon State Patrol (360) 705-5101	Adult and juvenile sex offenders	Fingerprints, photo, crime, date of conviction, social security number, DOB, place of employment, place of conviction	State Patrol, State Department of Corrections, local law enforcement
<b>West Virginia</b> (1994)	Sgt. Thomas Barrick State Police (304) 746-2177	Adult sex offenders	Social security number, DOB, previous address, jurisdiction of conviction, date of conviction, date of release, right thumb print, name and phone number of parole/probation officer	State Police



<b>STATE (Year Enacted)</b>	<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>	<b>OFFENDERS REQUIRED TO REGISTER</b>	<b>INFORMATION COLLECTED (In addition to name and address)</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATING AGENCY</b>
<b>Wisconsin</b> (1993)	Mike Lew, Department of Corrections (608) 266-5413  Special Agent Ron Feurer Department of Justice (414) 227-2100	Adult and juvenile sex offenders	Place of school enrollment, place of employment, employment duties, DNA sample	State Department of Justice
<b>Wyoming</b> (1994)	Dave Gruver Legislature (307) 777-7881	Adult felony sex offender whose victim was under 18 and who was at least 4 years older than victim	Date and place of birth, social security number, place of employment, conviction, photo, fingerprints	Division of Criminal Investigation, county sheriff

**TABLE 2**  
**States with Sex Offender Registration Laws**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME FOR REGISTRATION</b>	<b>APPLIES TO OFFENDERS CONVICTED IN ANOTHER STATE?</b>	<b>DURATION OF REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>VERIFICATION OF ADDRESS?</b>	<b>PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	Within 30 days of release; 30 days of changing address	Yes	Life	No	Felony--1 to 5 years imprisonment and up to \$1,000 fine
<b>Alaska</b>	Within 7 days of release; 14 days of entering state (7 days if on parole/probation); 10 days of changing address	Yes	15 years for first offense; life if convicted of 2 or more offenses	Annually--offender must provide written notice of changes in registration information, or statement of no changes, to Department of Public Safety	Class A misdemeanor
<b>Arizona</b>	Within 30 days of conviction; 30 days of entering state; "promptly" upon changing address	Yes	Life	No	Class 6 (lowest) felony or Class 1 (highest) misdemeanor
<b>Arkansas</b>	Within 30 days of entering any county; 10 days of changing address	Yes	10 years	No	Class A misdemeanor--up to 1 year in jail and up to \$1,000 fine
<b>California</b>	Within 14 days of entering any county or city; 10 days of changing address	Yes	Life for both adults and juveniles; juveniles may petition to have their records sealed	Offenders update registration info annually with local law enforcement within 10 days of birthday; verify address with Department of Justice	If guilty of a misdemeanor, failure to register or update is a misdemeanor--up to 1 year in jail; if guilty of a felony or have prior failure, failure is a felony--16-36 months in state prison; mandatory 90 days imprisonment; parole/probation revocation

<b>STATE</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME FOR REGISTRATION</b>	<b>APPLIES TO OFFENDERS CONVICTED IN ANOTHER STATE?</b>	<b>DURATION OF REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>VERIFICATION OF ADDRESS?</b>	<b>PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	Within 7 days of becoming a temporary or permanent resident; 7 days of changing address	Yes	20 years (Class 1, 2 and 3 felonies); 10 years (Class 4, 5 and 6 felonies); 5 years (misdemeanors)	No	Class 2 misdemeanor; Class 6 felony for second failure
<b>Connecticut</b>	Registered prior to release; 5 days of entering state; 5 days of changing address	Yes	1 year after sentence termination date; records then destroyed unless convicted of subsequent sexual assault	No	Class A misdemeanor
<b>Delaware</b>	Initial registration timeframe not yet specified; 30 days of entering state; 10 days of changing address	Yes	Not yet specified	No	Misdemeanor--mandatory, min. 90 days imprisonment w/balance of at least one year probation, up to 1 year imprisonment; Class G felony for second and subsequent failures--parole/probation revocation
<b>Florida</b>	Within 48 hours of entering a county; 48 hours of changing address	Yes	Life	No	Third degree felony; revocation of parole/probation
<b>Georgia</b>	Within 10 days of release on parole; 10 days of changing address	No	Ends with completion of parole	No	Misdemeanor and violation of parole
<b>Idaho</b>	Within 5 days of entering any county; 5 days of changing address	Yes	10 years	No	Felony--incarceration up to 5 years and fine up to \$5,000

<b>STATE</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME FOR REGISTRATION</b>	<b>APPLIES TO OFFENDERS CONVICTED IN ANOTHER STATE?</b>	<b>DURATION OF REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>VERIFICATION OF ADDRESS?</b>	<b>PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>Illinois</b>	Within 30 days of entering any county; 10 days of changing address	Conviction in another state may constitute a first conviction	10 years	No (State Police has requested that local law enforcement verify addresses)	Class A misdemeanor
<b>Indiana</b>	Within 7 days of arriving at intended residence; 7 days of changing address	No	Ends with completion of parole/probation	No	Class A misdemeanor; Class D felony if offender has prior unrelated offense
<b>Kansas</b>	Within 15 days of entering any county; 10 days of changing address	Yes	10 years for first conviction; life for second or subsequent conviction	No	Class A non-person misdemeanor
<b>Kentucky</b>	Within 14 days of release; 14 days of being notified by parole/probation officer after moving into state (inferred from legislation); 14 days of changing address	Yes, if on active supervision	10 years	No	Class A misdemeanor
<b>Louisiana</b>	Within 30 days of release; 45 days of entering state; 10 days of changing address	Yes	10 years (may petition the court for relief of duty)	No	1st failure--up to \$1,000 fine and/or up to 1 year imprisonment; 2nd failure--up to 3 years imprisonment without parole, probation or suspension
<b>Maine</b>	Within 15 days of release; 5 days of changing address	No	15 years (may petition for relief of duty after 5 years)	No	Class E crime (misdemeanor)
<b>Michigan</b>	Registered prior to sentencing, updated upon release; within 14 days of residing in state; 10 days of changing address	Yes	25 years; life if convicted of subsequent offense (even if first offense was committed prior to law)	No	Felony--up to 4 years imprisonment and/or up to \$2000 fine; probation/parole or youthful trainee status revoked

<b>STATE</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME FOR REGISTRATION</b>	<b>APPLIES TO OFFENDERS CONVICTED IN ANOTHER STATE?</b>	<b>DURATION OF REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>VERIFICATION OF ADDRESS?</b>	<b>PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	Immediately upon release; prior to entering state if accepted while on parole/probation; 5 days prior to changing address	Yes, if on parole/probation; acceptance of an offender under interstate agreement is conditional on offender registering, and other requirements	10 years or length of parole/probation, whichever is longer	No (local law enforcement is asked to physically verify offender's reported address)	Gross misdemeanor, and adds 5 years to registration requirement
<b>Mississippi</b>	Within 30 days of release; 45 days of establishing residence; 45 days of changing address	Yes	Offender may be relieved of duty only by petitioning circuit court	No	If convicted of a felony--up to \$5000 fine and/or up to 5 years imprisonment; if convicted of a misdemeanor--up to \$1000 fine or up to 1 year imprisonment
<b>Missouri</b>	Registered prior to release; 14 days of coming into state; 10 days of changing address	Yes	Not specified	No	Class A misdemeanor
<b>Montana</b>	Within 14 days of coming into a county; 10 days of changing address	Yes	10 years	No	Misdemeanor--minimum 90 days incarceration and/or up to \$250 fine
<b>Nevada</b>	Within 48 hours of arrival in a county; 10 days of changing address	Yes	Life; offender may petition district court relief of duty	No	Gross misdemeanor--up to 1 year in county jail
<b>New Hampshire</b>	Within 30 days of release (including while under supervision); 30 days of establishing residence; 10 days of changing address	Yes	Life (felony offenses); 10 years (misdemeanors)	Registration report made annually within 30 days of anniversary of release, or of establishment of residence in state if convicted elsewhere	Misdemeanor

<b>STATE</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME FOR REGISTRATION</b>	<b>APPLIES TO OFFENDERS CONVICTED IN ANOTHER STATE?</b>	<b>DURATION OF REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>VERIFICATION OF ADDRESS?</b>	<b>PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE</b>
<b><i>New Jersey</i></b>	Registered prior to release or within 4 days of judgement if not confined; upon being placed on supervision; 70 days of entering state; 10 days prior to changing address	Yes	May apply to State Superior Court to terminate obligation to register if no offense committed within 15 years following conviction or release	Address verification with law enforcement every 90 days, or as required by federal law	Crime of the fourth degree
<b><i>North Dakota</i></b>	Within 30 days of release; 30 days of changing address	No	5-10 years, depending upon seriousness of offense	No	Class A misdemeanor; automatic parole revocation
<b><i>Ohio</i></b>	Within 30 days of entering any county; 10 days of changing address	Yes	10 years	No	First degree misdemeanor for 1st offense; fourth degree felony for subsequent offenses
<b><i>Oklahoma</i></b>	Within 10 days of release; 30 days of entering state; 10 days of changing address	Yes	2 years for offenders who complete Department of Corrections' treatment program; 10 years for other offenders	No	Misdemeanor
<b><i>Oregon</i></b>	Within 1 year of release from supervision; 30 days of changing address	Yes--if offender is on probation	Life; may petition for waiver after 10 years (law sunsets in 1997)	No (currently developing a system of verification)	Class C felony if felony offense; otherwise a Class A misdemeanor
<b><i>Rhode Island</i></b>	Within 60 days of conviction; 30 days of entering state; 10 days of change of address	Yes	Life for adults; until age 25 for juveniles (juvenile registration records destroyed at that time)	No	Misdemeanor--90 days imprisonment, 1 year probation

<b>STATE</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME FOR REGISTRATION</b>	<b>APPLIES TO OFFENDERS CONVICTED IN ANOTHER STATE?</b>	<b>DURATION OF REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>VERIFICATION OF ADDRESS?</b>	<b>PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>South Carolina</b>	Within 24 hours of release; 10 days of sentencing to probation; 60 days of entering state; 10 days of changing address	Yes	Life	Offenders register annually with county sheriff	Felony; for first 2 offenses--\$1000 fine & mandatory 90-day sentence; third & subsequent offenses--mandatory 1-5 year sentence, and may be fined \$1000
<b>South Dakota</b>	Within 10 days of entering state; 10 days of changing address	Yes	Not specified	Offenders register annually with local law enforcement agency	Class 1 misdemeanor for 1st failure; Class 6 felony for subsequent failures
<b>Tennessee</b>	Within 10 days of release; 10 days of entering state; 10 days of changing address	Yes	10 years minimum; may then petition for relief from registration	Annually, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation will send a non-forwardable verification form to offender, who must complete and deliver to Bureau headquarters within 10 days of receipt	Class A misdemeanor for 1st failure; Class E felony for subsequent failures
<b>Texas</b>	Within 7 days of arriving at intended residence; 7 days of changing address	No	Duration of parole/probation for adults; until age 21 for juveniles (juvenile registration info destroyed at age 21)	No	Class A misdemeanor for 1st failure; Third degree felony for second failure
<b>Utah</b>	During presentence investigation, or immediately upon being paroled; 10 days of changing address	Yes	5 years	No	Class A misdemeanor--mandatory 90 days confinement and 1 year probation

<b>STATE</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME FOR REGISTRATION</b>	<b>APPLIES TO OFFENDERS CONVICTED IN ANOTHER STATE?</b>	<b>DURATION OF REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>VERIFICATION OF ADDRESS?</b>	<b>PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>Virginia</b>	Within 30 days of release; 30 days of coming into state; 30 days of changing address	Yes	15 years; or may petition circuit court for expungement from registry (if petition is denied, offender must wait 2 years to file new petition)	No	Class 1 misdemeanor
<b>Washington</b>	Within 24 hours of release, immediately if not confined; 30 days of becoming new state resident; 10 days of changing address	Yes	Life if Class A felony; 15 years if Class B felony; 10 years if Class C felony	No	Class C felony if Class A felony offense; otherwise gross misdemeanor
<b>West Virginia</b>	Immediately upon release; 30 days of moving into state; 10 days of changing address	Yes	10 years (if not imprisoned, registration applies after second conviction)	No	Misdemeanor
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Upon release from supervision; within 14 days of changing address, school enrollment, or employment	No (DOJ asks supervised offenders from other states to register but this cannot be enforced)	15 years from discharge from supervision	Offender must notify the Department of Justice annually of his/her current information; DOJ notifies offenders of this requirement	Up to \$10,000 fine and/or up to 9 months imprisonment



<b>STATE</b>	<b>TIMEFRAME FOR REGISTRATION</b>	<b>APPLIES TO OFFENDERS CONVICTED IN ANOTHER STATE?</b>	<b>DURATION OF REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>VERIFICATION OF ADDRESS?</b>	<b>PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE</b>
<i>Wyoming</i>	Within 5 days of release; 30 days of entering state; 10 days of changing address	Yes	If convicted of first or second degree sexual assault--must petition district court for relief of duty to register; if convicted of other sex offense--10 years, or may petition district court for relief of duty to register	No	High misdemeanor for 1st failure--up to \$750 fine and/or up to 1 year imprisonment; Felony for subsequent failures--up to \$1000 fine and/or up to 2 years imprisonment

**TABLE 3**  
**States with Sex Offender Registration Laws**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>ACCESS TO INFORMATION</b>	<b>CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISION?</b>	<b>NUMBER REGISTERED</b>	<b>PERCENT COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	No	Not known	
<b>Alaska</b>	Certain information available to the public; the constitutionality of this law is currently being challenged	No	New law (effective 8/94, but not yet implemented)	
<b>Arizona</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	Information is considered criminal history; violation of confidentiality is a felony	6,789	Not known
<b>Arkansas</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	No	less than 20	Not known; believed to be low
<b>California</b>	Department of Justice will operate a "900" phone number that the public may access to determine if a person is registered as a <i>felony child molester</i> (caller must already have specific identifying information); DOJ will make a subdirectory of sexual habitual offenders available to local law enforcement, who may regulate public access (subdirectory will <i>not</i> include exact address or criminal history except crime for which registering)	Use of information disclosed by "900" number or subdirectory to engage in illegal discrimination or harassment is illegal; use of this information to commit a felony shall be punished by a 5-year prison term in addition to any other punishment	65,645	72% for those released in 1981; 54% for those released in 1973 (1988 study)
<b>Colorado</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	No	Not known - state registry recently created, but very few registrants entered in data base	
<b>Connecticut</b>	Available to custodian of records and law enforcement only	Disclosure of records is a Class C misdemeanor	New law (effective 1/95)	
<b>Delaware</b>	Employers can make inquiries if part of background check for employing a person to work with children	No	New law (effective 8/94)	
<b>Florida</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	No	30-35	Not known
<b>Georgia</b>	Registry open to public inspection; it has been informally established that as a condition of parole, offender must give name, address, and crime to the superintendent of the public school district where offender will reside	No	17	Not known

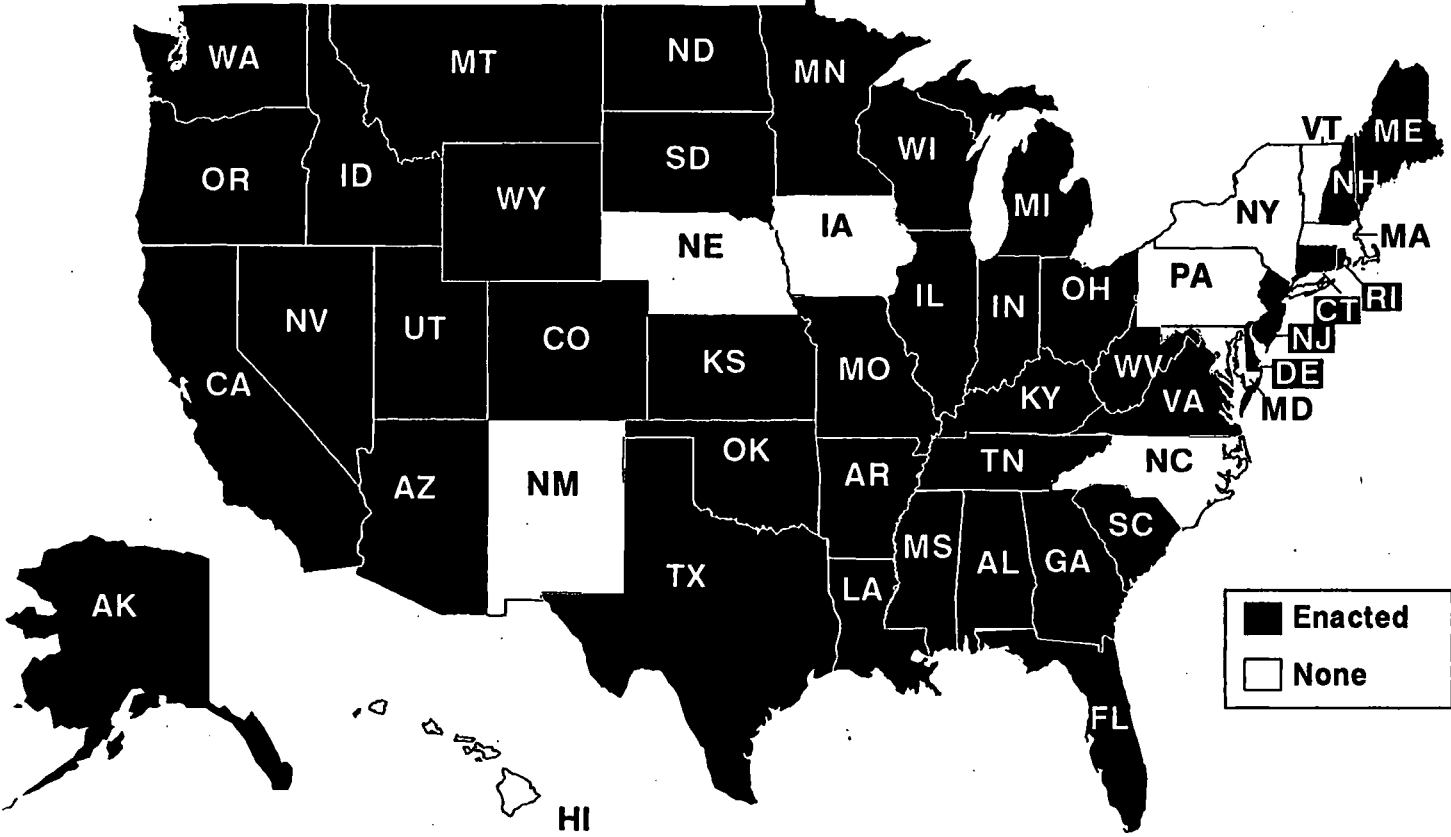
<b>STATE</b>	<b>ACCESS TO INFORMATION</b>	<b>CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISION?</b>	<b>NUMBER REGISTERED</b>	<b>PERCENT COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>Idaho</b>	Limited information is available to the public upon written request that includes name, DOB, and social security number; address is available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	No	930	Not known
<b>Illinois</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities and to state child welfare and other governmental agencies	Class B misdemeanor for unauthorized release of registration information	Approximately 944	Not known
<b>Indiana</b>	Registry available to defined entities that screen individuals who may be hired to work with children	Any person who mis-uses limited criminal history information commits a Class A misdemeanor	First list released 1/95	
<b>Kansas</b>	Available for public inspection at the sheriff's office	No	120	Estimated to be nearly 100%
<b>Kentucky</b>	Available to law enforcement agencies only (separate statute allows daycares to screen employees)	No	New law (effective 1/96)	
<b>Louisiana</b>	Available to the general public	No	1081 active cases; 1/3 include public notification	Estimated: Registration = over 95%; Public notification = approx. 90%
<b>Maine</b>	Name, address, and description of offense are available to the public	No	27	Not known
<b>Michigan</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	A person who divulges, uses, or publishes registration information is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days imprisonment and/or up to \$500 fine. An offender whose registration is revealed has a civil cause of action against the responsible party.	New law (effective 10/95)	
<b>Minnesota</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	Reference made to another section addressing "private data"	approximately 3,000	Not known
<b>Mississippi</b>	Available to law enforcement officers	No	36	
<b>Missouri</b>	Available to courts, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies	No	New law (effective 1/95)	
<b>Montana</b>	Some information is constitutionally protected; public can theoretically access the list (but has not attempted to do so)	No	1,300	Not known

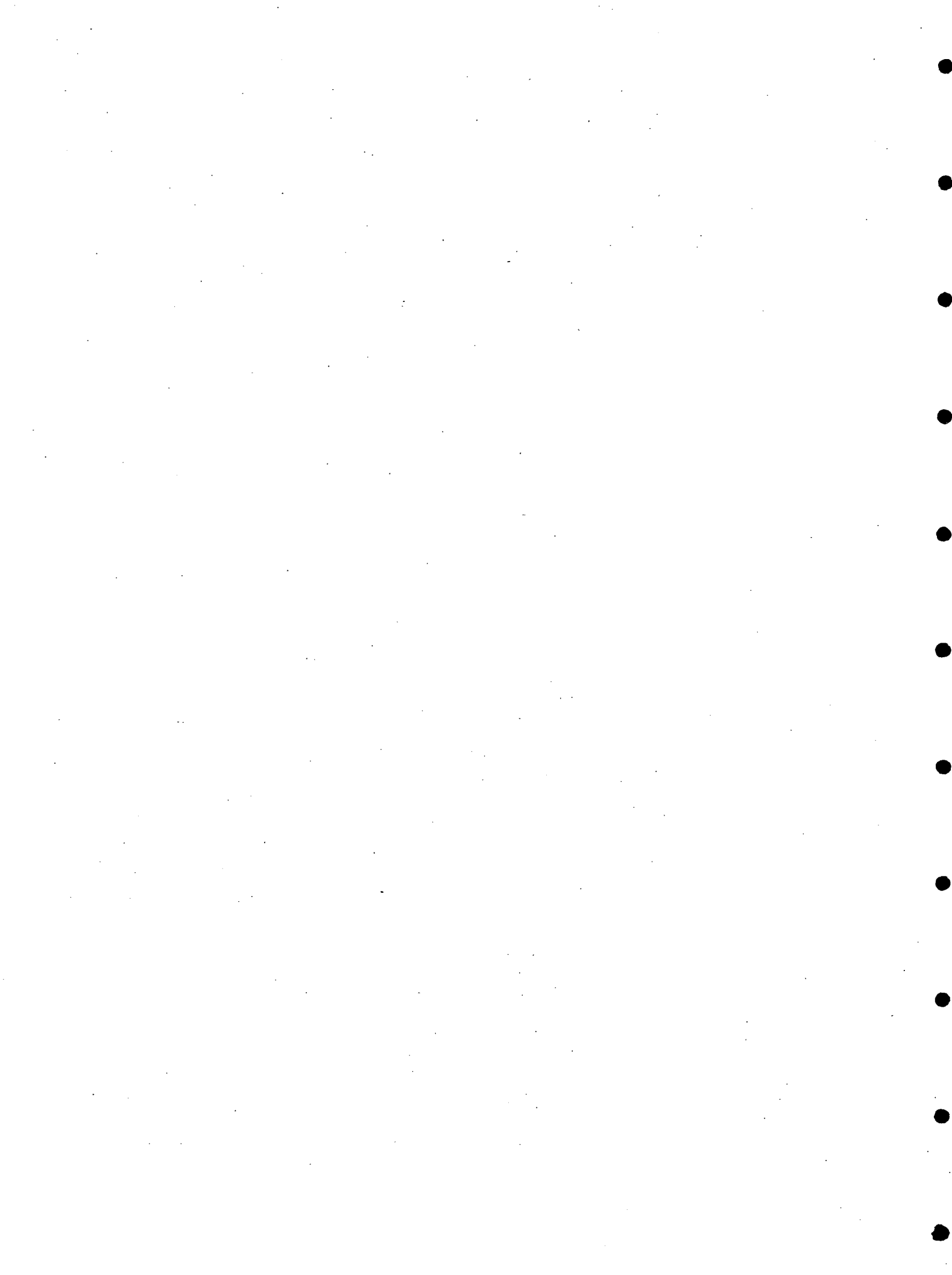
<b>STATE</b>	<b>ACCESS TO INFORMATION</b>	<b>CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISION?</b>	<b>NUMBER REGISTERED</b>	<b>PERCENT COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>Nevada</b>	Available to law enforcement authorities who, if offender's victim was under 18, may inform board of trustees of county school district, who may inform teachers/education personnel; further dissemination prohibited without approval by board of trustees	No	Not known	Not known
<b>New Hampshire</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only; background checks may be conducted by agencies that employ persons to work with children	A person who violates confidentiality provisions is guilty of a violation	590 (includes those registered and those notified of their requirement to register; the computer program to monitor who has registered and compliance rates has not yet been completed)	
<b>New Jersey</b>	Records open to New Jersey law enforcement agencies who are authorized to release information when necessary for public protection	No	New law (effective 10/94, 120-day grace period)	
<b>North Dakota</b>	Available to the general public without restriction	No	83 (58 registered for crimes against children, 25 registered for sex offenses)	Not known
<b>Ohio</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	No	Not known	Not known
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	No	1,132	Not known
<b>Oregon</b>	Information on predatory sex offenders may be released to the public	No	Approximately 750 are registered or are expected to register (offenders have a year to register upon release)	Not known
<b>Rhode Island</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	No	Approximately 85	Not known
<b>South Carolina</b>	Available to law enforcement, investigate authorities, and those authorized by the court	No	Approximately 15	Not known
<b>South Dakota</b>	Names for background checks may be submitted by a school superintendent or child welfare agency for employment purposes	No	13	Not known
<b>Tennessee</b>	The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and law enforcement may release relevant information deemed necessary to protect the public concerning a specific sex offender	No	New law (effective 1/95)	
<b>Texas</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	Release of registration information to an unauthorized person is a Class B misdemeanor	5,900	65%-70% for those on parole

<b>STATE</b>	<b>ACCESS TO INFORMATION</b>	<b>CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISION?</b>	<b>NUMBER REGISTERED</b>	<b>PERCENT COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>Utah</b>	Available to law enforcement agencies, the Department of Education, and the Department of Corrections	No	875 on probation 384 on parole	Not known
<b>Virginia</b>	Information disseminated upon request to criminal justice agencies, public and private schools, child welfare agencies, and daycares for screening possible employees or volunteers.	Unauthorized dissemination is a Class 1 misdemeanor	1,540	Not known
<b>Washington</b>	Available to general public and press; background checks may be conducted for businesses or organizations employing persons to work unsupervised with children or vulnerable adults	A business or organization which obtains conviction information through a background check may not further disseminate or use the record; anyone who violates this is subject to a civil action for damages	8,184 registered 2,128 not registered 553 back in custody <sup>10</sup>	79%
<b>West Virginia</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	No	Not known	Not known
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Available to law enforcement and investigative authorities only	Failure to keep information confidential may result in fine of up to \$500 and/or up to 30 days imprisonment	300	Not known
<b>Wyoming</b>	Available only to persons authorized to receive criminal history record information	No	New law (effective 1/95)	

<sup>10</sup> The Washington State Patrol has restructured their database to identify those offenders who are back in custody. This group was previously counted as either complying or not complying with the registration requirement. *Telephone conversation with Susie Coon, Washington State Patrol, January 9, 1995.*

**Updated:**  
**40 States Have Sex Offender Registration Laws**



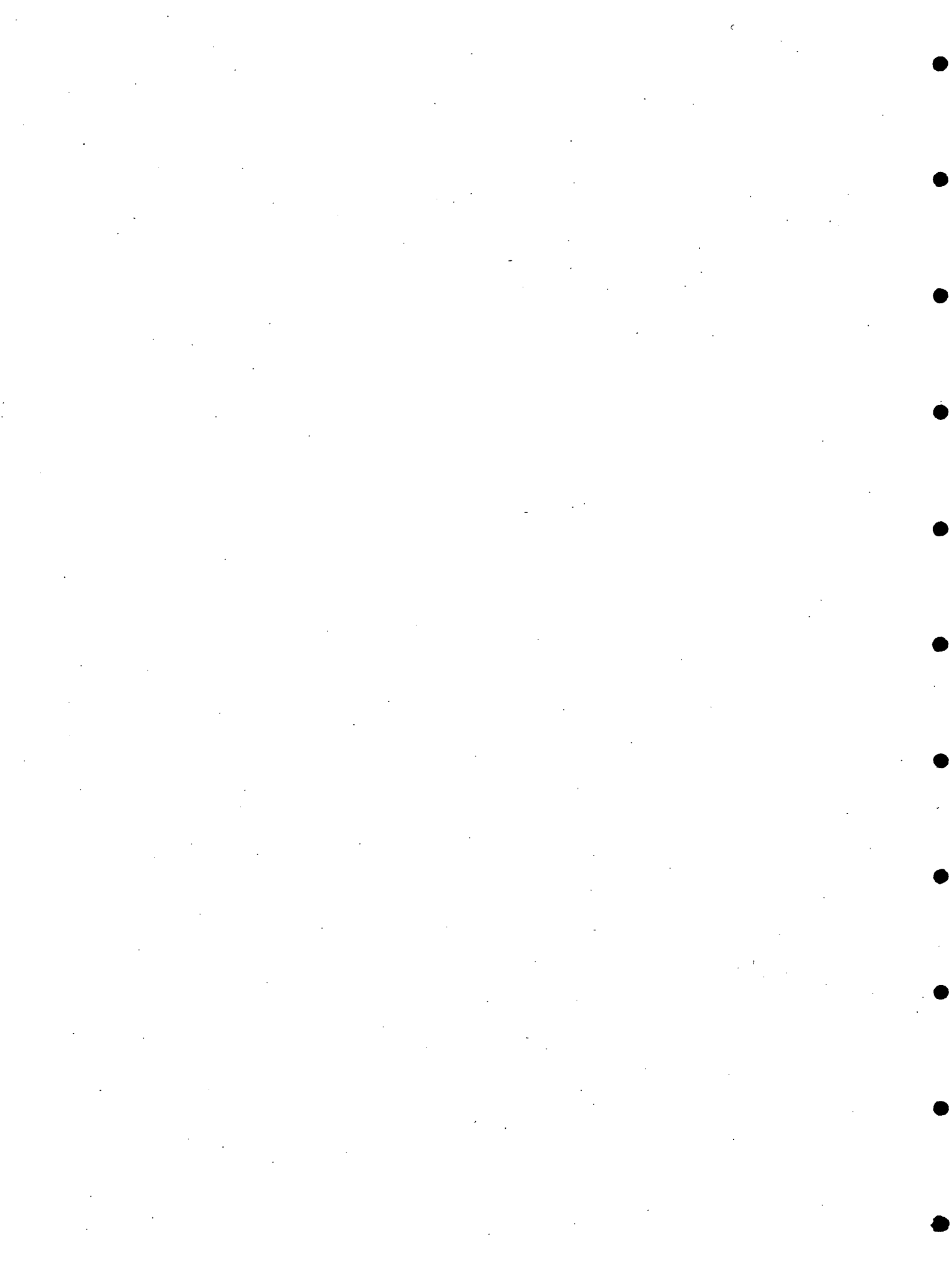


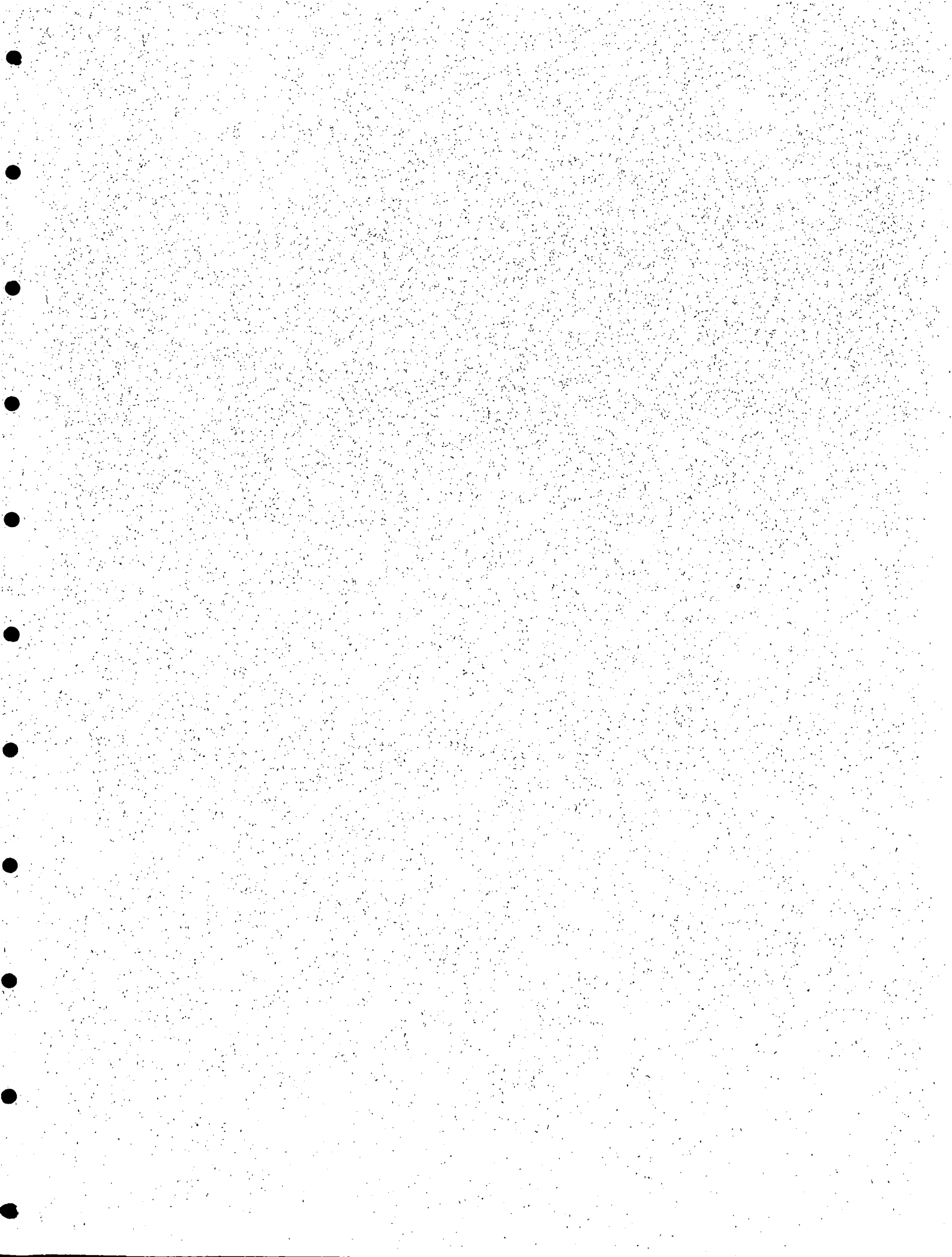
## **APPENDIX: Sex Offender Registration Statutes**

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Alabama Code § 13A-11-200 to 13A-11-203  
Alaska Statutes § 12.63.010  
Arizona Revised Statutes Annotated § 13-3821 to 13-3824  
Arkansas Statutes Annotated § 12-12-901 to 12-12-909  
California Penal Code § 290 and 290.2  
Colorado Revised Statutes § 18-3-412.5  
Connecticut Pub. Act 94-246  
Delaware Code Annotated, Title 11 § 4120  
Florida Statutes Annotated § 775.2  
Georgia Code Annotated 42-9-44.1  
Idaho Code § 18-8301 *et seq.*  
730 Illinois Compiled Statutes 150/1 *et seq.*  
Indiana IC 5-2-12  
Kansas Statutes Annotated § 22-4901 *et seq.*  
Kentucky Revised Statutes, Chapter 17.510  
Louisiana Revised Statutes Annotated, Title 15 § 540  
Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Title 34A § 11001  
Michigan Senate Bill 397 (1994)  
Minnesota Statutes § 243.166  
Mississippi House Bill 2482 (1994)  
Missouri Senate Bill 693 (1994)  
Montana Code Annotated § 46-18-254 and § 46-23-501 to 507  
Nevada Revised Statutes § 207.151 to 207.157  
New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated § 632-A:11, *et seq.*  
New Jersey Revised Statutes § 2C:52-2  
North Dakota Century Code § 12.1-32-15  
Ohio Revised Code Annotated § 2950.01 to 2950.08  
Oklahoma Statutes, Title 57 Chapter 8B § 581 to 587  
Oregon Revised Statutes § 181.518 to 181.519  
Rhode Island General Laws § 11-37-16  
South Carolina Code Annotated § 23-3-400 to 23-3-490  
South Dakota Codified Laws § 22-22-31  
Tennessee Code Annotated § 38-6-110  
Texas Revised Civil Statutes, Title 110A, Article 6252-13c.1  
Utah Code Annotated § 77-27-21.5  
Virginia Code Annotated § 19.2.390.1  
Washington Revised Code §§ 9A.44.130 and 9A.44.140  
West Virginia Code § 61-8F-2  
Wisconsin Statutes § 175.45  
Wyoming Statutes § 7-19-301 to 7-19-306







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