



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2019

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### **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS BEST PRACTICES FOR HANDLING SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES AT SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY SYMPOSIUM**

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice’s Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking is hosting the 2019 National Symposium on Sex Offender Management and Accountability today through July 18 in Chicago for criminal justice professionals who investigate and prosecute sex offenses and register and monitor sex offenders. Highlights include a case study on a cold case solved with genetic genealogy, tactics to identify child trafficking and psychopathic sex offenders.

“With about 900,000 sex offenders now registered in jurisdictions across the United States, this symposium comes at a pivotal moment in our fight against sex crimes in America,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katharine T. Sullivan. “I am excited to join hundreds of public safety professionals, victim service providers and sex offender registry officials from around the country as we renew our collective commitment to holding perpetrators accountable and keeping our citizens safe.”

The symposium provides more than 600 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, sex offender registry officials, victim advocates and criminal justice experts information on the latest tools, techniques and information vital to combatting sexual assault and child sexual abuse.

At the symposium, the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Sullivan discussed the Department’s expansion of direct access to the FBI’s National Sex Offender Registry to tribes participating in the Tribal Access Program. Direct access allows tribes participating in TAP to use their Tribe and Territory Sex Offender Registry System to input data and gain access to NSOR, giving tribal law enforcement information necessary to investigate offenses and share information to jurisdictions across the country. TAP allows information sharing between tribal and federal government criminal information systems.

The sessions focus on four topic areas: information for prosecutors; tools for registrars and jurisdictional registry officials; interdiction and tracking of sex offenders; and research on sex offender behavior and sex offender registration and notification laws.

In the DNA and Cold Cases session, participants will review the case study on how police worked with a genetic genealogy company to identify the killer of 8-year-old April Tinsley, which will help others solve cold-case sexual assaults in the future. There were also sessions on sex offender registry case law, stopping child trafficking and child pornography and recruiting and retaining sex offender registrars, among other topics critical to personnel in law enforcement, corrections, the judiciary and prosecutions.

“The 2019 Symposium brings together criminal justice professionals from across the nation to network and learn how to continue to strengthen their systems for protecting and informing their citizens about potential risks,” said SMART Acting Director Dawn Doran. “Sharing and using the

more complete sex offender information between jurisdictions is critical to keeping our communities safe.”

At the symposium, the SMART Office also highlighted a refresh of the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW.gov) with expanded search capacity. NSOPW allows users to search all the public sex offender registries across the country with one search, and offers a mobile app that lets users search nearby locations for registered offenders.

The SMART Office was established under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act. It assists jurisdictions in the administration of their sex offender registration systems to better track and monitor sex offenders, reduce violent crime and improve public safety. The law is named in memory of 6-year-old Adam Walsh, who was abducted and murdered in 1981. To date, 154 jurisdictions (18 states, 134 tribes and four territories) have substantially implemented SORNA’s requirements.

The Office of Justice Programs, directed by Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katharine T. Sullivan, provides federal leadership, grants, training and technical assistance, and other resources to improve the nation’s capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims and enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal justice system. More information about OJP and its components can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).