



Community Notification and Public Education

This workshop will outline key considerations in notifying and protecting victims. Participants will be able to describe the information required for notification, and when website notification is required. Additionally, participants will be able to identify effective key steps and strategies for conducting effective community notification meetings.



Overview

- Key considerations: notify and protect victims
- Required notification information and website notifications
- Notification timelines and procedures
- Effective community meetings
- Case examples

Notify and Protect Victims

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Goals of Managing Sex Offender within the Community



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Community Education Programs

Teach Victims and Community about

- Sex Offenders
- Offending Behavior

Provide Community Member Tools to

- Prevent and
- Reduce potential for victimization

Provide Resource Information for

- Victims,
- Offenders, and
- Their families



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Required Notification Information and Website Notifications



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SORNA Provisions

- Must keep the registration current in each jurisdiction in which the sex offender
 - resides,
 - is an employee, and
 - is a student

SORNA Provisions

- Within 3 business days after a change, a sex offender must appear in person
 - in at least one jurisdiction in which the sex offender is required to register
 - and inform that jurisdiction of all changes in the information required for that sex offender in the sex offender registry

Changes

- All relevant jurisdictions
 - must make and receive immediate electronic notification about a sex offender's change in registration information
- Jurisdiction receiving new updated info about an offender impacting another jurisdiction
 - Must use SORNA Exchange Portal to notify other jurisdiction(s) immediately

SORNA Final Supplemental Guidelines II. B., P. 38



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Notification Timelines and Procedures



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SORNA Requirements

- “Jurisdictions are to ‘make available’ on the Internet, in a manner that is readily accessible to all jurisdictions and to the public, all information about each sex offender in each registry”
- Exemptions:
 - victim identity, or any inference about who a victim is
 - social security number,
 - arrests not resulting in conviction,
 - travel and immigration document numbers,
 - internet identifiers



The National Guidelines for Sex Offender Registration and Notification, Pages 35-37; and SORNA Final Supplemental Guidelines, I. B. P. 37



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Community Notification

- Dissemination of identifying information to citizens and community organizations about convicted sex offenders who are released into the community
- Convicted sex offenders who are living in the community are to immediately notify police officials of their place of residence
- Once info is received, website notices must immediately follow
 - Communities may desire or request “an in person meeting” to deliver the notification

(Community Notification and Education CSOM, April 2001)



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Other Formats of Notice

- Beyond a website.....
- Reach out to all ages
- We live in a new age of virtual information
- Know your age/population
 - Create a slide show like a movie for your elders with audio
 - Create recorded messages in traditional language as well
 - Create notices on various medias that younger ages relate to



Community Notification

- When is it required?
 - Immediately after a sex offender registers or updates a registration
 - “Immediately” is defined as 3 working days for specified recipients
 - Special category of those who may opt to receive notification
 - “Immediately” is defined as every 5 business days

Who Should be Notified?

Those that require special treatment:

- National databases (NSOR)
- Law enforcement and supervision agencies
- Jurisdictions
- National child protection act agencies
- Other recipients, citizens, and general public
- Requires notice within 3 working days



Other Recipients

- School and public housing agencies
- Social service entities for protection of minors in the child welfare system
- Volunteer organizations where contact might occur
- Any organization, company or individual who requests such notification
- Others?

Problems

- Identifying and maintaining list
- Keeping it up to date
- How to transmit information

Notification Requirements Compliant if:

- Automated notification system that:
 - Post required information within three business days,
 - Website has a function where people can sign up to get updates via email upon any new additions or changes,
 - System automatically sends e-mail notices to requesters.
 - TTSORS can do this.

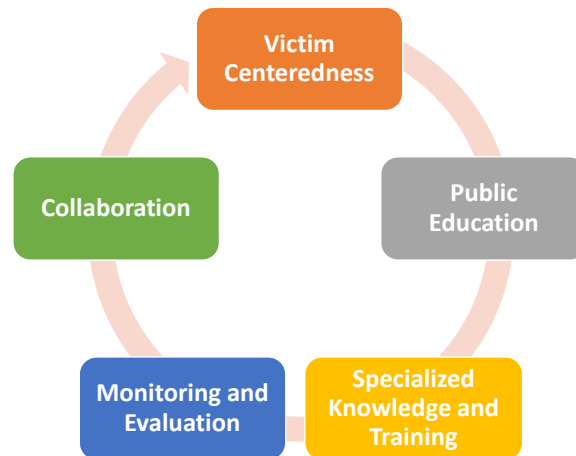
Potential Challenges



- Internet access in remote locations (community members' access to information)
- Harassment and other reaction to offenders within the community
- Compliance for offenders without community supervision
- Backlog of retroactive and current residents who are not in compliance
 - Problematic when society knows there is a historical offender but fails to report his/her identity
 - Historically a high rate of recidivism which compounds public safety concerns when there is delay in historical cases
 - Inadequate number of personnel to manage this backlog and meet guidelines

Effective Community Meetings

Comprehensive Approach



Carer, Bumby, and Talbot,
2004 CSOM Comprehensive Approach Publication



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Comprehensive Approach: Notification Meeting

- Widespread notification is needed for offenders who are considered to have a high likelihood to re-offend
- High risk may include assessment of many factors to identify their level of risk to the community
 - Different from SORNA tiering and notification requirements



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Community Meetings

- Take your time
- Often, children are present - be careful of content
- Provide refreshments
- If there are other topics on meeting agenda – stick to schedule of notification topics
- Monitor the reception of the notice and be aware of mixed reactions

Notification Meetings

- Provide an opportunity to educate the community about sex offenders and sexual offending
- Provide only public information on the offender
- Make recommendations on how to safeguard family members as well as the community
- Provide tips that enhance personal safety
- Have a short video if allowed to convey information on safety and how to promote reporting of offenses

Proactive Education

- Focuses attention on the problem of sexual abuse
- Part of sexual violence prevention and victim advocacy mission
- Helps protect the community
- Is community policing at its best
 - Gets the public involved in public safety
 - Provides the public with tools and resources to report



Benefits

- Reduces emotional shame to victim/family when others are aware of victim impact
- Brings sexual abuse out of the shadows
- Gains community and tribal council support
- Emphasizes prevention of sexual violence
- Provides accurate information/dispels myths
- Supports SORNA implementation and sustainability

Benefits

- Minimizes harassment and other reaction to offenders within the community
- Helps with offender reentry
- Ensures compliance for offenders without community supervision
- Assists with the development of a comprehensive sex offender management program (integrates all tribal agencies)



Benefits

- The public feels empowered
- The public is less anxious
- It gets the community involved



Community Meetings

- Provide a forum to educate citizens about sex offenders in general (known and unknown)
- Helps citizens see “the big picture”
- Helps them understand their vested interest in the offender’s success
- Gives them tools to protect themselves and their family
- Assists LE/P&P by getting quality calls



Community Notification Logistics by Detective Bob Shilling, Seattle PD

Discuss

Community Notification Logistics: Meeting Blueprint

First Step: Planning

A. Location

- ✓ Secure adequate facility for your audience size
Ex: school auditorium, community hall, church, etc.
- ✓ Verify facility will be set up in advance
Chairs, tables for handouts, A/V equipment, head table
- ✓ Set meeting time
7 PM is best on school nights
Avoid Monday, Friday, and weekends

B. Promotion

- ✓ **Advertise Meeting**
Ex: community newspaper, meeting notice sent home from school, PTA/parent newsletters, local radio

C. Miscellaneous

- ✓ Prepare sufficient handouts
Better to have too many than not enough
- ✓ Have persons available for child care actives

Implementing

Night of the Meeting To-Do List:

- ✓ Arrive one hour in advance
- ✓ Verify room arrangement and A/V equipment
- ✓ Start the meeting ON TIME

Coordinate the Team Effort

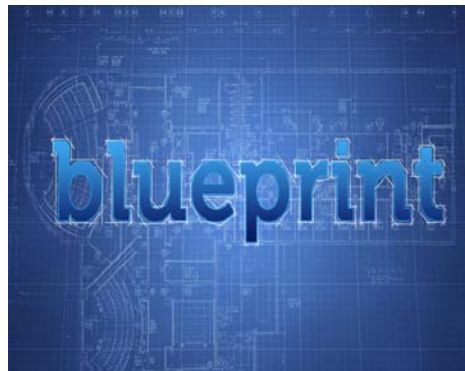
- ✓ Make sure all participants know what each participant is going to talk about
 - Should be discussed and practiced beforehand
 - When possible, the same participants should be used for each meeting
- ✓ No contradicting each other in front of the community
- ✓ Divide responsibilities
 - Law enforcement does introductions, safety issues, facilitates questions at end
 - Prosecutor to do "general" legal issues
 - Therapist to do recidivism and general sex offender behavioral issues
 - DOC to do supervision
 - Social worker/victim advocate to do victimization issues

The Meeting Blueprint

- Display photo montage (poster or PowerPoint)
- Introductions – state your qualifications
- History of law – tribal, state, federal
- Discuss residency restrictions-if relevant
- Extent of sex offender population
- Who is a sex offender?

The Meeting Blueprint

- Need for stability
- In the offenders' words
- What can citizens do to protect themselves?
- Resources
- Questions



Prevention

- What can citizens do to protect themselves and their children?
 - Behavioral indicators
 - Call and check background
 - Keep open communication with kids
 - National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
www.missingkids.com

How Victims Might be Involved

- Victim notification
- Assist with supervision planning
- Identify monitoring/supervision resources
- General community education
- Safety planning/wrap around
- Victim initiated, or agreed to restorative justice programs

What Good Sex Offender Management Can Do

- Ensure victim rights across a spectrum of their experiences
- Promote victim healing and access to resources
- Prevent re-victimization
- Promote effective offender re-entry
- Inform and educate the community

Effective Sex Offender Management Strategies

- Do Not:
 - Overlook the needs of victims
 - Re-traumatize or negatively impact victims
 - Inadvertently jeopardize the safety of victims or community members

Questions?

Thank you!

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