

AVOID VICTIMIZATION

A Quick Reference Provided by Your Northern California, OES Region III S.A.F.E.* Team

The Nor-Cal Region III S.A.F.E. Team is a collaborative effort of 19 agencies who participate in the OES S.A.F.E.* Grant.

The mission of the S.A.F.E. Teams are:

- 1) Increase registered sex offender compliance with Penal Code Section 290**
- 2) Deliver Public Education on Megan's Law**
- 3) Protect the public from sexual assault and initiate sexual assault investigations.**

* S.A.F.E. - Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement

Photo by Greg Rathbun

Facts:

- One in 5 children from ages 10 to 17 who are regular Internet users are sexually solicited online. One in 4 receives unwanted sexual content online.¹
- Solicitation of minors for sex online is growing at the rate of 1000% every month.²
- Fewer than 15% of parents feel they know more about computers than their teenage children, or how to trace where their child's computer has "traveled" online.

Signs that your child may be conducting at-risk online activities:

- Child spends large amounts of time online, especially at night.
- You find pornography on your child's computer.
- Child receives phone calls from adults you don't know or is making calls, sometimes long-distance, to numbers you don't recognize.
- Child receives mail, gifts or packages from someone you don't know.
- Child turns off the computer monitor or quickly changes the screen on the monitor when you come in the room.
- Child is using an online account belonging to someone else.

What you can do:

- Communicate with your child about sexual victimization and the potential for online danger.
- Spend time with your children online. Let them teach you about their favorite online destinations.
- Keep your home computer in a common room in the house, not in your child's bedroom.
- Use parental controls provided by your service provider and/or blocking software.
- Use of chat rooms should be heavily monitored (computer sex offenders prowl them).
- Instruct your child to never provide any personal information or provide pictures of themselves on the internet or online service to people they do not personally know. Nor should they download pictures from an unknown source because there is a good chance these images could be sexually explicit.
- Never respond to messages or bulletin board postings that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent or harassing.
- Always maintain access to your child's online account and randomly check their e-mail. Tell your child you will be doing this.
- If you believe your child is being victimized via the internet, immediately contact your local S.A.F.E. Task Force or your local law enforcement agency.

¹ Finkelhor, Mitchell and Wolak, "Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth," Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2000.

² San Diego Police Department, San Diego, California.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Agencies in Northern California want to prevent sexual assaults and exploitation of children. One way is through educating the public on Megan's Law. If you would like information, please contact the agency listed nearest you.

If you are the victim of a sexual assault or know someone who is, contact your nearest law enforcement agency, or call 911.

If you are aware of a person who is required to register as a sex offender and who is out of compliance, please call your local law enforcement agency.

Sex Registration Laws

PC 290(a)(1)(A)- Requires registration within five (5) working days of coming into, or changing residence or location within a city, county, or campus.

PC 290(a)(1)(B)- Requires registrants with more than one residence address to register with each jurisdiction they reside in or if all the addresses are in the same jurisdiction, provide the registering agency with all addresses.

PC 290(a)(1)(C)- Requires that transient persons must complete a registration update every 30 days.

PC 290(A)(1)(D)- Requires registration annually within five working days prior to or five working days after their date of birth.

PC 290(e)(2)- Requires registration within five working days upon release from incarceration, placement, or commitment lasting 30 days or more.

PC 290(f)(1)- Requires notification of a new address or location in writing or in-person to last registering agency within five(5) working days, when moving within or out of a registering agency's jurisdiction. Re-registration in person constitutes the written notification for moves within the same jurisdiction.

If the original conviction was a misdemeanor, then the PC 290 offense is charged as a misdemeanor. If the original conviction was a felony, then the 290 offense is a felony.

* PC - California Penal Code

MEGAN'S LAW

How can I find out if a person is a registered sex offender?

The Megan's Law database provides information on California's registered sex offenders who are required to register with local law enforcement every year.

As of December 2004, Megan's Law database became available for public viewing via the internet at: www.meganslaw.ca.gov

The database provides search capabilities on a registrant's name or on any address, city, zip code, county, park or school name.

The database includes the following registrant information:

- Name
- Address (if required by law)
- County of residence
- Zip Code (based on last registration)
- Physical description, including scars, marks and tattoos
- Photograph (if available)
- Registered sex offenses
- Aliases

This pamphlet was produced with funding provided by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services' S.A.F.E. Grant Program.

AGENCY CONTACTS

The following agencies are participants in the Region III S.A.F.E. Grant:

Shasta County Sheriff's Office
(530) 245-6025

Tehama County Sheriff's Department
(530) 529-7940

Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department
(530) 842-8300

Trinity County Sheriff's Department
(530) 623-1378

Modoc County Sheriff's Department
(530) 233-4416

Lassen County Sheriff's Department
(530) 251-5245

Plumas County Sheriff's Office
(530) 283-6375

Glenn County Sheriff's Office
(530) 934-6441

Yuba County Sheriff's Office
(530) 749-7777

Butte County Sheriff's Office
(530) 538-7671

Sutter County Sheriff's Office
(530) 822 7307

Colusa County Sheriff's Office
(530) 458-0233

Redding Police Department
(530) 225-4200

Anderson Police Department
(530) 378-6600

Red Bluff Police Department
(530) 527-3131

Corning Police Department
(530) 824-7000

Shasta County District Attorneys Office
(530) 245-6300

Shasta County Probation Department
(530) 245-6200

Tehama County District Attorneys Office
(530) 527-3053