

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION & COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

PURPOSE: With the passage of A.C.A. §12-12-901 et. seq., local law enforcement agencies are charged with conducting community notification by determining the risk of re-offense of a sex or child offender and based on that risk assessment, disseminating information about that offender to the community. This information is to be disseminated according to the guidelines set up by the Commission on Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence.

POLICY: It shall be the policy of this Department to utilize these guidelines to protect the public from child and sex offenders by releasing all information legally possible to help families, and the community, prepare to deal with the offender's residency within the community. It is the belief of this Department, State, and Federal law that the private interests of the individual adjudicated guilty of sex or child offenses are less important than the community's interest of public safety.

DEFINITIONS:

- I. **LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER:** (1) that the organization or community members are in a location or in close geographic proximity to a location where an offender lives or is employed, or which an offender visits or is likely to visit on a regular basis or (2) that the types of interaction which ordinarily occur at a location and other circumstances indicate that contact with an offender is reasonably certain.
- II. **RISK ASSESSMENT:** The procedure by which an offender's history and characteristics are reviewed in order to assign the offender to one (1) of four (4) risk levels or risk of re-offense, which determine the type of community notification that the offender will be subject.
- III. **LEVEL 1 OFFENDER:** Typically offenders in this category have no prior history of sexual offending and the community can be protected with notification inside the home and to local law enforcement authorities. Level I would not generally be appropriate with prepubescent victim(s), predatory behavior, sexual interest in children, a history of working with children or around children if the victim was a child, and allegations of force or threats of physical harm were used in the offense.
- IV. **LEVEL 2 OFFENDER:** Typically offenders in this category have a history of sexual offending where notification inside the home is insufficient. Community notification requires notice to the offender's known victim preference and those likely to come into contact with the offender.
- V. **LEVEL 3 OFFENDER:** Typically offenders in this category have a history of repeat sexual offending, and/or strong antisocial, violent or predatory personality characteristics. These are individuals whose offense and criminal history require notification throughout the community.
- VI. **LEVEL 4 OFFENDER:** Sexually Violent Person refers to a person who has been adjudicated guilty of a sex offense or acquitted on the grounds of mental disease or defect of a sex offense that makes the person likely to engage in predatory sex offenses. The designation indicates that the highest and most visible means of community notification is required.
- VII. **ADULT:** A person eighteen (18) years of age or older.