

## **Are Americans Aware?**

Are Americans aware that their teenagers are having consensual sex which could result in the older teen being convicted of sexual assault, battery or rape, a prison sentence and being listed on a Sex Offender Registry for 10 years or for a lifetime?

Are Americans aware that teenagers who ask other teenagers if they want a ride could result in the older teen being convicted of child abduction/luring a child? Even without getting out of the car, without touching anyone, without any criminal intent (even proven by a psychiatrist), they are still being listed on a Sex Offender Registry for 10 years to life.

Are Americans aware that their teenagers are e-mailing and texting nude photos of themselves and others? This could result in both teens being charged with creating, distributing and possessing child pornography with time in prison and being listed on a Sex Offender Registry for a lifetime.

Are Americans aware that if they receive one unwanted e-mail or text of child pornography on their computer or phone and a service technician finds the old/deleted file they will be charged with possessing child pornography? Resulting in time in prison and being listed on the Sex Offender Registry for a lifetime.

Are Americans aware that if they have knowledge that their juvenile child is having consensual sex with someone of 17 years or older, they (the parent) can be convicted of indecent liberties by person of supervision and listed on a Sex Offender Registry for 10 years, 20 years or for a lifetime?

Are Americans aware that middle schoolers have been convicted and listed on Sex Offender Registries for pinching other middle schoolers on their rear-end?

Are Americans aware that because of the "Victim's Rights Laws & Rape Shield Laws" an ACCUSATION ALONE is sufficient for a conviction, a prison term of 5 to 25 years or even life and then being listed on a Sex Offender Registry most likely for life?

Are Americans aware that NO evidence, NO witness, NO dates or times have to be given by an accuser? Are Americans aware that they CAN NOT defend themselves by supplying evidence or witnesses that can prove an accuser is lying and had motive to lie?

Are Americans aware they are no longer innocent until proven guilty in America when there is a sexual claim, they are guilty and not allowed to prove their innocence?

There is a huge difference between stealing a newspaper and robbing a bank, both crimes are considered theft but both are differentiated by law and society. Are Americans aware that the current laws that label someone as a Sex Offender in the U.S. do not differentiate? Whether you are accused of teenage consensual sex, urinating in public, mooning or streaking, pinching or touching someone or being a serial rapist upon your return to society, conviction and sentence will be the same.

Are Americans aware that a VERY large number of Registered Sex Offenders have never touched or raped anyone, let alone a child? But guilt by association on the Sex Offender Registry labels them all as a "pervert", a "pedophile" and a "predator" for life.

Our Legislators have taken a group of people and used them as a platform to win elections and instill fear into the parents of our country so that they look like heroes. People that are not "child-molesters", "pedophiles" or "perverts" have all been bucketed into one massive Registry and must endure a lifetime of shame.

The Sex Offender Registries are extremely costly both financial and to the families of the registered. Contrary to popular belief among the Legislators there is indeed hardship related to being listed on a Sex Offender Registry. The lives being destroyed are not just the "registered" But their spouse, their children and every family member sharing their name and address.

When you are a "Registered Sex Offender", you struggle to find and keep housing, employment and your family because of the stress and humiliation that the Registry creates within yourself, your neighbors, your co-workers and vigilantes looking for justice for a victim they don't even know.

The Sex Offender Registries are not protecting anyone, they are a means to humiliate, degrade, re-prosecute and destroy the lives of thousands of innocent Citizens.

The Studies below have proven that the current Sex Offender Laws, the Registries and the Residency Restrictions are ineffective and damaging. Our Legislators repeatedly state inaccurate recidivism rates (the rate to re-offend) of "sex offenders" to the public to gain support of voters and to push through flawed legislation. The recidivism rate for "sex offenders" is significantly lower than that of murders, drug dealers and users or armed robbers. An interesting fact since Sex Offender Legislation is based on the assumption that "sex offenders" will recidivate with new sexual offenses. There is also a study conducted by the Attorney General's of numerous states that proves the Internet is not as dangerous as our Attorney General and Legislators have convinced you to believe that it is.

- **No Easy Answers: Human Rights Watch Study, September 11, 2007**  
(<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2007/09/11/no-easy-answers>)
- **The Adam Walsh Act: Scarlet Letter by Lara Geer Farley, April 17, 2008**  
(<http://www.washburnlaw.edu/wlj/47-2/articles/geerfarley-lara.pdf>)
- **Fact Sheets Examine Impact of Sex Offender Registries: Justice Policy Institute, September 2, 2008**  
([http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/08-08\\_FAC\\_SORNAKidsAreDifferent\\_JJ.pdf](http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/08-08_FAC_SORNAKidsAreDifferent_JJ.pdf))
- **Collateral Damage: Family Members of Registered Sex Offenders by Jill Levenson Ph.D., January 2009**  
([http://www.opd.ohio.gov/AWA\\_Information/AW\\_levenson\\_family\\_impact\\_study.pdf](http://www.opd.ohio.gov/AWA_Information/AW_levenson_family_impact_study.pdf))
- **Enhancing Child Safety and Online Technologies: Final Report of the Internet Safety Technical Task Force to the Multi-State Working Group on Social Networking of State Attorneys General of the United States, December 31, 2008**  
(<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/pubrelease/isttf/>)
- **Residential Proximity to Schools and Daycare Centers: Influence on Sex Offense Recidivism, An empirical analysis by Jill Levenson Ph.D., December 23, 2008**  
(<http://www.cted.wa.gov/DesktopModules/CTEDPublications/CTEDPublicationsView.aspx?tabID=0&ItemID=7438&MId=870&wversion=Staging>)
- **New Jersey DOC Study on the Effectiveness of Sex Offender Registration, February 11, 2009**  
(<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/225370.pdf>)
- **Registering Harm: How Sex Offender Registries Fail Youth and Communities, Justice Policy Institute, November 21, 2008**  
([http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/08-11\\_RPT\\_WalshActRegisteringHarm\\_JJ-PS.pdf](http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/08-11_RPT_WalshActRegisteringHarm_JJ-PS.pdf))

A new book written by Dr. Richard Wright titled Sex Offender Laws: Failed Polices, New Directions, concludes that the proliferation of "Sex Offender" Legislation over the past 20 years in America that were meant to memorialize an assaulted, murdered or missing child have largely failed. They have NOT reduced Sex Offender recidivism rates (5.5%), provided safety, healing or support for victims, reflected the scientific research on sexual victimization, offending and risk or provided successful strategies for prevention.

Dr. Wright interviews Patty Wetterling the mother of an abducted child says twenty years later that there are many issues with current policy and "We have not built into the system any means for success". If Jacob Wetterling's mother can see that current laws and policies are failing why can't our government?

The fear and loathing against Registered Sex Offenders that is currently considered acceptable needs to stop before additional Citizens and communities are harmed.

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Our Legislators need to rectify this mess they have created by bucketing ALL sexual related acts into Sex Offender Crimes. The broad brush that the Legislators have been allowed to use across our population will continue to grow until it reaches into your home and labels you and your family.

The Registries need to be returned to their original intent to list only the most dangerous, un-treatable and repeat offenders.