Prohibited Activities

- Some registered sex offenders cannot live within 500 feet of a primary, secondary, or high school, child day center or public park that shares a border with a school and is regularly used for school activities.

- Some registered sex offenders are prohibited from "loitering" within 100 feet of the premises of any place he knows or has reason to know is:
  1. A primary, secondary or high school
  2. A child day program, or
  3. For the purpose of having any contact whatsoever with children that are not in his custody, of any place owned or operated by a locality that is a playground, athletic field or facility, or gymnasium.

- Sexually Violent offenders cannot enter or be present during school hours, and during school-related or school-sponsored activities upon any public or private elementary or secondary school or child day center property.

- Sexually Violent offenders cannot be on any property (public or private) during hours when such property is solely being used by a public or private elementary or secondary school for a school-related or school-sponsored activity.

- Sexually Violent offenders cannot enter onto a school bus.

Always review the entire form (SP-236 or SP-236A) for accuracy BEFORE signing. If information on the SP-236 is not correct, advise the official completing the form that it needs to be corrected. Providing false information on the SP-236 may result in being charged with §18.2-472.1 of the Code of Virginia. This is punishable as a Class 5 or 6 Felony, or a Class 1 Misdemeanor, as applicable.

If you have any questions or concerns about your Registry requirements, contact the appropriate Sex Offender Investigative Unit Trooper or Compliance Officer, or your Probation/Parole Officer prior to contacting the Sex Offender Registry Helpdesk at 804-674-2825. The Helpdesk is available Monday to Friday 8:15am – 4:45pm.


The Virginia State Police are not liable for information provided from the helpdesk.

The laws that govern a sex offender’s residence, work location, and proximity to schools and daycare facilities can be found in full under the following statutes:

18.2-370.2 – Sex offenses prohibiting proximity to children; penalty
18.2-370.3 – Sex offenses prohibiting residing in proximity to children; penalty
18.2-370.4 – Sex offenses prohibiting working on school property; penalty
18.2-370.5 – Sex offenses prohibiting entry onto school property; penalty

This brochure does not constitute a comprehensive listing of all laws and regulations for the Sex Offender Registry. Failure to receive this publication does not constitute a defense to any criminal charge or other requirement or prohibition imposed upon a person for whom registration is required; nor shall any civil liability attach to a governmental entity involved in the development or publication of any such document.
Sex Offender Registry Guidelines

It is your responsibility to register, in person, with the Virginia State Police, or your local law enforcement agency within the jurisdiction you reside and submit a new SP-236 registration form with prints in the following instances:

- Every person required to register shall register in person within 3 days of his release from confinement in a state, local or juvenile correctional facility, in a state civil commitment program for sexually violent predators or, if a sentence of confinement is not imposed, within three days of suspension of the sentence or in the case of a juvenile of disposition.

- Within 3 days of receiving an additional conviction or suspended sentence for a charge listed on the back of Form SP-236.

- Within 3 days of a change in residence or mailing address within Virginia, including if you become homeless.

- Within 10 days prior to change in residence if moving outside of Virginia.

- Within 3 days of a change in employment regardless if employment is in or outside of Virginia. This applies if you change jobs, or become unemployed, retired, disabled, laid-off, or start or end a second, or more jobs.

- Within 3 days of release from a correctional facility, jail, or community supervision (probation and parole).

- Within 3 days of legally changing your name through a court order.

- Within 3 days of a change in owned vehicle registration information (includes changing license plate numbers, buying, trading, selling or otherwise disposing of any vehicle you own or have your name on the title). This includes watercraft and aircraft.

- Within 3 days of enrolling in, quitting, or graduating from an institution of higher learning. This includes any post-secondary school, trade school, or professional institution of higher education.

- Within 30 minutes of any change in, or addition to, your email address information, any instant message or chat screen name, or other Internet electronic communication name or identity information that you use or intend to use. This can be done electronically by submitting the information by e-mail to sor.electronic@vsp.virginia.gov. The instructions for submitting information electronically are listed on the SOR page under the “Change of Electronic Communication” Tab. This may also be done in person with a local law enforcement agency where your residence is located, by submitting an SP-236, with the new information, to the Sex Offender Registry.

- Every 2 years commencing with the date of initial registration, submit to be photographed by the Virginia State Police or your local law enforcement agency.

- Registered sex offenders who are classified as Sexual must re-register with the authorities once per year. A conviction of failure to register will change this to every 180 days.

- Registered sex offenders who are classified as Sexually Violent must re-register with the authorities every 90 days. A conviction of failure to register will change this to every 30 days.

International Travel

A registrant is required to inform their residence jurisdiction of any intended travel outside of the U.S. at least 21 days prior to that travel. Information you need to provide is found at: http://www.smart.gov/international_travel.htm

Once you provide the information to your appropriate law enforcement official, state trooper, compliance officer, or probation/parole officer, it will be transmitted to the United States Marshals Service.

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