



Pennsylvania Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws
A Pennsylvania Safe and Just for All

PARSOL's Legal and Legislative Involvement

PARSOL believes in taking a proactive approach towards the legal and legislative troubles of PA's sexual offense laws and policies. The Legal Committee follows cases that are brought before the PA Supreme Court regarding constitutionality of sexual offense laws, civil commitment, court procedural due process, and protection of constitutional fundamental rights.

We filed an amicus brief in *Commonwealth v. Claude A. Lacombe* in support of Lacombe who challenged the constitutionality of SORNA. We have also signed onto an amicus brief in *M. S. Willman v. U.S. Attorney General* before the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in support of Mr. Willman for the Federal Gov't. to respect each State's ruling on the imposition of SORNA onto individuals convicted of a sexual offense.

Our Legislative Committee tracks legislation in the PA General Assembly to monitor that proposed laws surrounding sexual offenses are in-line with research and the Constitution and also further the cause of *prevention*. The Legislative Committee meets with members of the House and Senate to discuss ways to better protect all Pennsylvanians from sexual exploitation.

Informing the public with the truth can help shift perception and legislation toward more rational policies and laws. What's the truth: according to official data, the 2008 re-offense rate in Pennsylvania was 3.1%ⁱ; the seven year re-offense rate in the United States was 7.7%ⁱⁱ. These numbers are not "frightening and high", contrary to the popular perception.

The Pennsylvania Statistical Analysis Center at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency reported the following known offenses from 2012-2016ⁱⁱⁱ: Theft- 1,032,679; Assaults- 530,854; Vandalism- 404,102; Forgery/Fraud- 286,871; DUI- 250,543; Burglary- 234,042; Drug Possession- 191,921; Drug Sale/Manufacturing- 91,596; Robbery- 70,473; Sex Offenses- 47,551; Weapons- 33,579; Rape- 19,587; Stolen Property- 15,860; Arson- 10,169; Murder/Manslaughter- 3,515.

Sex offenses and rape combined made up 2.08% of reported offenses.

ⁱ 3.1% was calculated using the data of 0.6% forcible rapes, 0% statutory rapes, and 2.5% other sexual offenses from the PA DOC, 2013. *Recidivism Report 2013*. p. 22, table 14.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (2019). *Recidivism of sex offenders released from state prison: A 9-year follow-up (2005-14)*. Retrieved from <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rsorsp9yfu0514.pdf>.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Pennsylvania Statistical Analysis Center at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (2019). *Pennsylvania: An Infographic Report of Crime Trends and Statistics 2012-2016*. Retrieved from <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Justice-Research/Documents/PA%20Crime%20Trends%202012-2016.pdf>.