

SEX OFFENSE POLICY IN PA

Pennsylvania's 'Sex Offender' Registry Law (originally "Megan's Law," now "Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA)") was signed into law by Gov. Tom Ridge on October 21, 1995 in response to a national fear-based campaign. Using several high-profile crimes, advocates pushed Pennsylvania legislators to do 'something' to prevent the proliferation of crimes of a sexual nature. The registry was created with no research or facts to back it up, but based on the idea that individuals with past convictions have a "Frightening and High" likelihood of reoffending. In 2004, the registry was published on the internet. In 2011, it was extended to include assorted other crimes and the number of persons forced to register (PFRs) in Pennsylvania expanded. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has declared it unconstitutional several times, only to have it reworded enough to remain in effect.

Now, nearly 30 years later, the registry dehumanizes more than 24,000 Pennsylvanians & 800,000 American citizens. Publishing personal information online leaves PFRs open to scams, vandalism, and other hate-based crimes. While the same fears that pushed the registry remain, three decades of research now debunks those fears. The research findings are clear: the registry is both punitive and ineffective in protecting our communities.

MEGAN'S LAW IS PA's SORNA

After the courts ruled PA's version of Megan's Law Unconstitutional two times, Pennsylvania modeled its sex offense registry after guidelines from a federal law called SORNA (Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act). Pennsylvania began tracking and publishing information about people with sex offenses on their records in 1996. Since then, the PA Megan's Law has grown to include over 24,000 PA residents. The PA Legislature initially enacted Pennsylvania's version in 1995, and amended the law several times. The law requires the Pennsylvania State Police to maintain a registry of adult and juvenile sex offenders convicted of certain offenses.

GLOBAL ACCESS TO THE REGISTRY

According to its proponents, Megan's Law was meant to protect families and neighbors, but in today's digital world, anyone can access any state's registry and browse intimate details of people's lives. In addition, because the list includes registrants' home addresses, this puts persons forced to register at risk of global vigilantes. Frequently, people search for "Sex Offenders Near Me" and use the information on the registry to harass, scam, and even murder people.

FEARLESS SUPPORT GROUP

PA Fearless is a 12-step, 12-tradition inspired support group for registrants and their families. More information including upcoming meeting information at PARSOL.org/fearless.

COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES AND FAMILIES

Being on the PA Megan's Law list can keep a person forced to register from getting a stable job, finding housing, pursuing education, and having equal access to physical, mental, and emotional wellness resources and healthcare. The associated stigma can create stifling barriers with friends and family members. These barriers create a tremendous burden on the registrant's family. Children of persons on the registry are bullied in school and have trouble establishing healthy friendships.

THE REGISTRY CAN INCREASE RECIDIVISM

Supporters of the registry claim the law reduces recidivism, but the opposite may be true for several reasons:

- Sex continues to be a taboo subject in our society and culture and carries shame, stigma, and judgment.
- SORNA registrants struggle with finding insurance-providing jobs, so they use taxpayer-funded, subsidized coverage. Unfortunately, this coverage often does not cover needed mental health services. Registrants need providers trained in trauma, compulsive sexual behaviors, and other paraphilias (atypical sexual issues).
- Many landlords and housing authorities won't rent to "sex offenders," so registrants are forced to live wherever they can find a place. As a result, many become homeless.
- This unmanaged stress and disruption can lead a registrant to return to their old destructive ways or decide life can only be better in prison.



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Last Revision: April 28, 2025 - Laws & policies may have changed. No part of this document shall be considered legal advice.

HISTORY

Pennsylvania's Megan's Law, first enacted in 1995, has evolved significantly over time. The initial law established a 'sex offender' registry and community notification system. After legal challenges, it was revised in 2000 as Megan's Law II. In 2004, Megan's Law III made offender information publicly available online. In 2012, Pennsylvania adopted elements of the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), increasing registration periods for certain offenses. Following a 2017 Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling on retroactive application, the law was further revised in 2018. Throughout these changes, supporters of the registry claim maintaining a registry of persons with a sexual offense and providing public access to this information for community safety.

WHAT WE KNOW TODAY

When Gov. Ridge signed Megan's Law **thirty years ago**, our understanding of sexual offenses, prevention, and rehabilitation was also in its infancy. Instead of facts, the registry was based on now disproven myths that sex offense recidivism was 'frightening and high.' Three decades of research reveals this to be false and shows that the registry can even endanger community safety.

SUBCHAPTER H (post-12/20/2012)

Pennsylvania's SORNA Subchapter H applies to individuals who committed their offense on or after December 20, 2012. It classifies them into three tiers based on the severity of their offense, with registration periods ranging from 15 years to life. Tier III PFRs must register for life and verify information quarterly, Tier II for 25 years with biannual verification, and Tier I for 15 years with annual verification. Subchapter H requires them to provide comprehensive registration information, including name, aliases, birth year, addresses, employment details, physical description, vehicle information, and offense details. PFRs must report changes to this information within 3 business days requiring in-person appearances. After 25 years, lifetime PFRs can petition for removal from the registry. Subchapter H aligns more closely with federal SORNA requirements and generally imposes more stringent registration and notification obligations compared to Subchapter I.

SUBCHAPTER I (pre-12/20/2012)

Pennsylvania's SORNA Subchapter I applies to individuals who committed sex offenses before December 20, 2012. It establishes a two-tier registration system: 10-year and lifetime registration. Both categories require annual in-person verification of registration information and photographs. Those designated as SVPs under Subchapter I must register for life, verify information quarterly, and attend monthly counseling sessions approved by the SOAB. Subchapter I has fewer registerable offenses and registerable items compared to Subchapter H. This bifurcated system was implemented following court decisions that found certain aspects of the original SORNA unconstitutional when applied retroactively.

TRAVEL, VISITORS, and REPORTING

Travel by PA Registrants: Pennsylvanians whose sole obligation is to register must register an itinerary with the Pennsylvania State Police whenever they will be away from their registered address(es) for more than six days. Pennsylvania registrants must adhere to the laws of states, counties, and other municipalities they visit.

Travel by non-PA Registrants: Visitors to Pennsylvania must register if they will be in Pennsylvania for thirty days or more per year unless establishing residence including enrolling in school, signing a lease, starting employment, or similar.

Travel out of the United States: (see *International Megan's Law*)

REPORTING INTERVALS

Individuals required to register as a sexual offender shall appear in-person at an approved Registration or Verification Site according to their assigned Tier or classification. Tier II and Tier III registrants who have been compliant for three years must register in person once annually and may register via telephone if no information has changed.

(See also: <https://parsol.org/telereg>).

- Tier I offenders – required to appear annually.
- Tier II offenders – required to appear 2 times a year.
- Tier III offenders – required to appear 4 times a year.
- Ten-year registrant – required to appear annually.
- Lifetime registrant – required to appear annually.
- Transient offenders – required to appear monthly.
- Sexually Violent Delinquent Child – required to appear 4 times a year.
- Sexually Violent Predator – required to appear 4 times a year.

SVP DESIGNATION

The Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) designation in Pennsylvania is a legal classification for certain PFRs deemed to pose a high recidivism risk. The Sexual Offender Assessment Board (SOAB) evaluates them post-conviction but pre-sentencing, considering factors like criminal history, offense nature, and mental health to determine if they have a mental abnormality or personality disorder likely to lead to future predatory sexually violent offenses. SVP classification results in lifetime registration under SORNA, requiring quarterly in-person registration updates, monthly counseling, and active community notification. This designation carries significant long-term consequences, including social stigma and severe life impacts, emphasizing the importance of experienced legal representation for those facing potential SVP classification.

INTERNATIONAL MEGAN'S LAW

International Megan's Law, enacted in 2016, imposes strict regulations on registrants in the United States who intend to travel internationally. Under this law, registrants are required to notify federal and state law enforcement authorities at least 21 days before traveling abroad. The U.S. authorities are then mandated to inform foreign governments about the impending travel of these individuals. Additionally, the law requires that passports issued to certain registrants convicted of crimes against minors include a unique identifier. Failure to comply with these travel reporting requirements can result in fines and imprisonment for up to 10 years. The law also establishes the Angel Watch Center to coordinate information sharing and notifications regarding traveling 'sex offenders.'

RELEVANT LEGAL CASES & PRECEDENTS

- *In re J.B.* (2014)- Juvenile offender registration requirements violate due process rights by presuming a high risk of recidivism without allowing presumptive challenge.
- *Comm. v. Muniz* (2017) - SORNA I was found to be punitive and in violation of the U.S. and PA *ex post facto* clauses to registrants whose offenses occurred prior to Dec. 20, 2012 (legislative enactment date).
- *Comm. v. Davis* (2019)- A defendant cannot be compelled to disclose a password to a lawfully-seized computer as it would violate the U.S. Constitution's 5th Amendment against self-incrimination.
- *Comm. v. Haines* (2019)- A person convicted in criminal court for acts committed while a juvenile cannot be required to register.
- *Fross v. County of Allegheny*, (2020) - SCOPA determined that residency restrictions upon registrants are preempted by state law and therefore prohibited in Pennsylvania.
- *Comm. v. McClelland*, (2020)- Hearsay evidence alone is sufficient to establish a prima facie case at a preliminary hearing.
- *Comm. v. Butler* (2020) - SVP Registration, Notification, & Counseling requirements are not deemed to be punishment.
- *Comm. v. Muhammad*, (Pa. Super. 2020)- SORNA is unconstitutional as applied because it created an irrebuttable presumption that the defendant's convictions for non-sexual offenses of interference with the custody of children and conspiracy to interfere made her a risk to commit additional sexual offenses.
- *In re H.R.*, (2020)- The Court-Ordered Involuntary Treatment of Certain Sexually Violent Persons statute does not constitute criminal punishment for determining whether an individual is a sexually violent delinquent child (SVDC).
- *Comm. v. Lacombe* (2020)- Subchapter I of SORNA does not constitute criminal punishment and does not violate the constitutional prohibition against *ex post facto* laws. SCOPA also declined to find the Post Conviction Relief Act process or any other procedural mechanism as an exclusive method for challenging registration statutes.
- *Comm. v. Santana*, (2021)- SORNA constituted a punitive regulatory scheme that, when imposed retroactively to individuals who committed their offenses prior to SORNA's enactment, amounted to an unconstitutional *ex post facto* law —applies with equal force to offenders whose triggering offenses occurred in another state.
- *Comm. v. Thorne* (2022) - Constitutional challenges to SORNA Subchapter H implicate the legality of a sentence and cannot be waived on the basis that such claims were raised for the first time on appeal.
- *Comm. v. Torsilieri*, (2024) - SORNA II's registration requirements deemed constitutional, rejected irrebuttable presumption and punitiveness challenges; Reinforced legislature's role in making policy decisions regarding public safety.

PARSOL'S KEY POSITIONS (2025)

- Public registries do not prevent harm; they actually increase risk.
- Sexual harm is preventable, not inevitable.
- Education around sexuality, healthy relationships, & boundaries is key.
- Carveouts based on crime classification are presumptive and unfair.
- Person-First Language reduces dehumanization.
- "Frightening & High" Recidivism is a myth disproven by evidence
- Residency restrictions don't work and are counterproductive.
- Sex Offense policy must be based on evidence-based research.
- Civil Commitment is ineffective and overly costly.
- Individuals forced to register who require long-term care should be able to access it without fear of discrimination
- All persons deserve to be treated humanely. People can and do change.

OTHER ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance for Constitutional Sexual Offense Laws - <https://all4consolaws.org>
Restorative Action Alliance - <https://restorativeactionalliance.org>
United Voices for Sex Offense Reform - <https://uv4rsol.org>
Women Against the Registry - <https://ww1.womenagainsttheregistry.org>

PARSOL is a founding member of the Pennsylvania Reentry Council - PAReentry.org

ABOUT PARSOL

The Pennsylvania Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (PARSOL) believes all sexual abuse is unacceptable and that prevention, treatment, and healing are possible. We take a person-first approach to criminal justice reform that cultivates a fair and just society, honors inherent dignity and promotes respect and fairness. People can and do change. As such, PARSOL advocates for sexual offense public safety measures and resources that work for all through prevention-based, trauma/treatment-informed, and healing-focused legislative and public policy initiatives that respect our Constitution and all people's dignity.

PARSOL, a 501(c)4 social welfare membership organization, was founded in 2017 to directly advocate on behalf of the tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians affected by the collateral consequences of the Megan's Law registry. Our co-founders Dr. Theresa Robertson, Dr. Carol Salacka, and Steward Steckley founded PARSOL as Pennsylvania's affiliate of the National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (**NARSOL**). When someone says they are a "member" of PARSOL, they are referring to this group.

The **Pennsylvania Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws** is a 501(c)3 charitable education organization founded in 2021 to educate and inform the public about dehumanizing registries and their associated laws and policies. By helping Pennsylvanians learn the truth about crimes of a sexual nature, effective prevention and treatment measures, legislative and public policies that do more harm than good, and evidence-based alternatives, we believe a Pennsylvania safe and just for all is possible.

ABOUT NARSOL

Founded in the early 2000s, as RSOL, the National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (NARSOL) is the oldest and largest national organization committed to ending dehumanizing registries by working to eliminate the laws, policies, and practices that propagate them.

NARSOL works to provide resources including educational materials, messaging strategy, government relations supports, technical assistance, and direct advocacy both federally and in the states. NARSOL coordinates activities between movement leaders at state affiliates, associated groups, and advocates. NARSOL and its foundation *Vivante Espero* fund legal/litigation challenges and host annual conferences, meetings, and symposiums.

National & Neighboring States

NARSOL: <https://narsol.org>
Delaware: <https://darsol.org>
Maryland: <https://fairregistry.org>
Ohio: <https://ohrsol.org>
Virginia: <https://safervirginia.org>
West Virginia: <https://wvrsol.org>



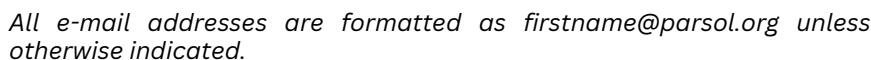
CONTACT US

Mailing Address

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Phone: 717-820-2237 **Web:** <https://parsol.org>
Email: contact@parsol.org **Social:** @PARSOLOfficial

Collateral consequences are penalties, disabilities, or disadvantages imposed on individuals as a result of their criminal convictions, separate from the direct criminal sanctions such as imprisonment or fines. For persons with crimes of a sexual nature, these consequences can be particularly severe and long-lasting, often extending well beyond the completion of their sentence.

- When determining regional programs, PARSOL often uses the below Ten (10) Pennsylvania Parole Office Regions. We also occasionally use Pennsylvania's Area Code breakout.



- Josiah Krammes, Co-Chair, Educational Programs (Pottsville)
- Randall Hayes, Co-Chair, Advocacy & Legislative Affairs (Harrisburg)
- Lisa Kessler-Peters, Vice Chair (Camp Hill) - lkp@parsol.org
- Olivia Schmidt, Secretary (Sharon)
- John Dawe, Treasurer/Managing Director (Lehman Township)
- Robert Cicchinelli (Havertown)
- Melinda Murphy (Edinboro)
- Lisa Perry (Frackville) - lisa@secondchancetrainingcenterinc.org
- Ashley Price, Support Committee Chair (Pittsburgh)
- *A current list can be found at parsol.org/about-us*

- John Dawe, MNA, CNP, RCP(F) - Managing Director
- Randall Hayes - Volunteer Coordinator, Legislative Director
- Josiah Krammes - Information & Education Director

The PARsol Advisory Board is comprised of experts and leaders with significant experience, training, or access to help PARsol achieve its mission.

Current Members Include:

- David Garlock - Motivational Speaker, David Garlock Speaks
- Stephanie Jerstad, Ph.D. - Criminologist, Millersville University of PA
- Brenda Jones - NARSOL Executive Director
- Emily Kinkead - Pennsylvania State Representative (D-20, Pittsburgh)
- Carrie Kurtz - Consultant, PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency
- Robert Reed, Esq. - Executive Deputy Attorney General of PA
- Theresa Robertson, Ph.D., LPC - PARSOL Founder & Psychologist
- Christi Corl Smith, Ph.D. - Public Safety Subject Matter Expert
- Jennifer Weeks, Ph.D., LPC, CSAT-S, CAADC, SOAB Treatment Provider
- John W. Dawe, MNA, CNP, RCP(F), PARSOL Managing Director (Liaison)

KEY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The **Legislative Advocacy** team works to monitor and influence legislation and rationalize laws that apply to individuals and families affected by sexual offense policy and regulation. The team organizes spring and fall Lobby Days on “the hill” in Harrisburg and coordinates federal action with NARSOL’s government relations team.

The **Education & Information** team creates, edits, and publishes educational and informational materials (such as this document), the *Rational Reform Quarterly* newsletter and Annual *Rational Reform* magazine. It also researches, writes, edits, and creates content for PARSOL’s website, social media channels, and YouTube channel. Its research group compiles metaresearch and survey data. Members regularly correspond with persons who are incarcerated for sex-related offenses.

The **Legal Information** team analyzes case law, litigation, and appellate court rulings and provides analyses and information to PARSOL members, investors, and the public. The Legal Information team is not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice or review individual active cases.

PARSOL’s **Support Programs** team provides referrals to reentry services, supportive providers, and related services. They also create or facilitate supportive environments for individuals affected by the registry to enjoy time with people who ‘get it’ at activities like the bi-monthly book club and Fearless group.

Pennsylvania Fearless is a twelve-step, twelve-tradition inspired discussion and support group for persons forced to register and their loved ones. PA Fearless typically meets the second Saturday of the month at 4 p.m. Eastern Time for 90 minutes and is facilitated by Ashley P. Advance sign-up is required at [PARSOL.org/fearless](https://parsol.org/fearless).

PARSOL CONFERENCES

PARSOL’s Annual Fall Conference brings together reentry professionals, service providers, social workers, sociologists, case managers, policy-makers, community leaders, elected officials, registrants, family members, and advocates for a day of plenary sessions, workshops, and activities. The conference goal is to educate and empower attendees around actions they can take to advance rational sexual offense laws and policy and improve the quality of lives of those affected by them. The conference also provides to reduce the shame and stigma associated with the registry by providing a supportive environment for growth for individuals with a past offense to move through and beyond their past transgressions to a productive, healthy, community-focused future.

PA REENTRY COUNCIL

Established by then-Attorney General (now Governor) Josh Shapiro in 2017, the mission of the Pennsylvania Reentry Council (PARC) is to make communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization through the successful reintegration of returning citizens by supporting the efforts of county reentry coalitions and other federal, state, and local reentry organizations.

The PARSOL leadership team serves as PARC’s Committee on Special Reentry Populations’ subcommittee for Reentrants with a Crime of a Sexual Nature (CSN).

PARSOL WEB & SOCIAL HANDLES

PARSOL can be found at:

Web: <https://parsol.org>

General Email: contact@parsol.org

Advocacy Email: advocates@parsol.org

X/Twitter: <https://x.com/parsolofficial>

Instagram: https://instagram.com/_PARSOLofficial

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/PARSOLOfficial>

BlueSky: <https://bsky.app/profile/parsol.org>

Medium: <https://medium.com/@parsolofficial>

PARSOL COLLABORATION CENTER

PARSOL staff, board, and volunteers use a closed MatterMost™ intranet for projects and communication purposes. Volunteers will be invited to the server upon completion of a volunteer intake form and interview and signing of a confidentiality agreement. The MatterMost Intranet server does not allow members to communicate outside the closed system.

VOLUNTEER POLICY

Individuals may volunteer with PARSOL who meet all of the following criteria:

- Age 18 or older
- Supports the PARSOL mission & vision
- Free from legal supervision or have parole/probation approval to volunteer and communicate with PARSOL team members and utilize PARSOL work systems
- Able to contribute at least 4 hours per month
- Completed a volunteer intake form, volunteer intake interview
- Sign the PARSOL confidentiality agreement

More Volunteer Info: <https://parsol.org/volunteer>

VOTING RIGHTS

You can register & vote if you:

- Will be at least 18 years old at the time of the election, a US citizen for at least one month before the election, and a PA resident for at least 30 days before the election.
- Are a pretrial detainee. This means that you can register and vote even if you are confined in a correctional facility awaiting trial on charges of a felony or a misdemeanor, so long as you have not been sentenced to incarceration or are not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction.
- Are currently serving a sentence for a misdemeanor conviction only unless the misdemeanor was a violation of the PA Election Code.
- Have a felony conviction and were released or will be released from a correctional facility by the date of the next election. You only need to wait for release if your term of incarceration is for conviction of a felony.
- Are on probation or released on parole. This includes parolees living in a halfway house.
- Are under house arrest (home confinement). If this is you, you can vote no matter your conviction status or the status of the conditions of confinement.

You can NOT register and vote if you:

- Are currently confined in a correctional facility for conviction of a felony and will not get released from confinement until after the next election.
- Were convicted of violating any provision of the Pennsylvania Election Code within 4 years.
- When registering to vote, you cannot use a correctional facility or a halfway house as your residence address where you live. However, you may use these locations as the address for receiving your mail ballot.

POLLING PLACE ALERT

Individuals affected by PA's sex offense registry, especially those on parole and probation whose polling places are in schools, churches, or other public locations with children are strongly encouraged to vote by mail.

GIVING TO PARSOL

The Pennsylvania Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws is a 501(c)3 public charity. Contributions to PARSOL are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law. Consult your tax advisor as needed. A charitable giving receipt is provided to all donors who give at <https://parsol.org>.

The PARSOL Advocates organization is a 501(c)4 organization. Donations are not tax deductible. Individuals who do not itemize their charitable donations on their taxes are strongly encouraged to contribute to PARSOL Advocates which allows us the maximum flexibility.

Donations should be sent to PARSOL; PO Box 123; Lehman, PA 18627 and made payable to either Pennsylvania Assoc for RSOL (deductible) or PARSOL Advocates (not deductible). Donations can also be made at [PARSOL.org](https://parsol.org).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<https://parsol.org/events>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PARSOL maintains a listing of our the questions we are most frequently asked of us at <https://parsol.org/faqs>

ATTORNEY REFERRALS

PARSOL does not generally make referrals directly to criminal defense attorneys and relies on the National and Pennsylvania Associations of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL/PACDL).

To locate a criminal defense attorney, please visit <https://pacdl.org> and utilize the lawyer directory, filtering by "sex crimes lawyers" to identify private counsel by county or region.

PARSOL refers inquiries around non-criminal civil rights violation cases to the NARSOL Scarlet Legal Action Project (SLAP). Contact them at legal@parsol.org.

BOOK CLUB

PARSOL & PA Fearless host a book club the third Tuesday of even-numbered months. Books rotate between fiction and non-fiction books. More information at: <https://parsol.org/bookclub>

PARSOL RECORDINGS

PARSOL Workshop and Conference Recordings are available at the PARSOL YouTube Channel: <https://youtube.com/@parsolofficial>

PREVENTION & EVIDENCE

PREVENTION

Sexual harm represents a significant public health issue that is, at its core, preventable. By understanding the root causes and risk factors associated with sexual harm, proactive measures can be taken to mitigate its occurrence. Prevention efforts can encompass a wide range of strategies, including comprehensive sex education, promoting healthy relationships and consent culture, providing access to mental health support and resources, addressing social norms and attitudes that perpetuate sexual violence, and implementing trauma-informed policies and interventions that hold perpetrators accountable. Moreover, early intervention and education can empower individuals to recognize warning signs, assert boundaries, and seek help. By investing in prevention strategies and fostering a culture of respect and accountability, communities can work together to create safer environments and reduce the prevalence of sexual harm, ultimately promoting the well-being and dignity of all individuals.

- The latest Pennsylvania research from 2022 by the PA Department of Corrections showed that effective housing, employment, and community involvement were key to preventing recidivism, yet Nine out of 10 respondents to a 2023 PARSOL survey stated that their registration and supervision restrictions were significant barriers to housing, employment, and community involvement.
- Research by the Joint Commission and the HEAL PA initiative show that prevention and trauma-informed treatment for both perpetrators and survivors of sexual abuse is far more effective.
- The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) published a study in 2020 that stated that, “The research to date on SORN[A] has not identified significant reductions in the incidence of sexual abuse or sexual offense recidivism as a result of this policy. Current practices have numerous unintended consequences that potentially increase, rather than decrease, risk factors for individuals required to register. If the goals of these laws are the prevention of sexual abuse and reducing recidivism risk, meaningful legislative reforms will be required.”

To prevent sexual harm from happening, Pennsylvania must take a public health approach that aligns with those taken for other public health crises, including HIV, opioid use, and the COVID pandemic. This would include both primary prevention (education of a general population about sexual harm) and secondary prevention (targeted outreach to groups who are at a higher risk of offending). There is already proposed legislation around primary prevention, including Age-Appropriate Education about Sexual Harm Prevention.

The latest research on prevention is available from the MOORE Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse at the John's Hopkins University School of Public Health and their website: <https://prevention.global>.

SCAM PREVENTION

Because registry data is available publicly, including individual's photos, addresses, names, vehicles, and other otherwise private information, registrants are frequently targets of scams, including individuals posing as law enforcement. Pennsylvania's registry has no financial obligations or related fees. Visit <https://parsol.org/report> to read about current known scams and to report any fraudulent or potentially fraudulent activity.

THE GOOD LIVES MODEL OF OFFENDER REHABILITATION

Over the past decade, the Good Lives Model of Offender Rehabilitation (GLM) has been systematically developed by Tony Ward and colleagues, and has been adopted by many different jurisdictions both locally and internationally. Its ethical core is that of human rights and it starts from the assumption that while offenders have obligations to respect other peoples' entitlements to well being and freedom, they are also entitled to the same considerations.

A strengths-based approach to offender rehabilitation, the Good Lives Model differs from traditional models that focus solely on avoiding criminal behavior. Rather, the GLM emphasizes building lives worth living—defined by pursuing personal goals and fulfillment. The model revolves around the concept of primary goods: fundamental human needs and aspirations that all people strive to achieve.

The Good Lives Model postulates that people commit offenses because they lack the opportunity or ability to obtain important things in life—things we all need. The problem isn't the desire; it's the method used to achieve it.

The Good Lives Model identifies eleven primary goods or areas that contribute to a good life:

- Life: Healthy living and physical safety.
- Knowledge: The desire for understanding/learning.
- Excellence in Play: Engagement in hobbies and recreational activities.
- Excellence in Work: Achieving mastery & accomplishment in one's vocation.
- Excellence in Agency: Autonomy & the ability to make choices.
- Inner Peace: Emotional regulation & mental wellness.
- Relatedness: Intimacy & meaningful relationships.
- Community: A sense of belonging & social inclusion.
- Spirituality: Seeking meaning & purpose.
- Happiness: A sense of contentment & satisfaction.
- Creativity: Expressing oneself in innovative ways.

Key Components of GLM-Based Treatment include:

- Skill Building: Enhancing emotional regulation, interpersonal communication, & problem-solving abilities.
- Goal Setting: Helping clients articulate their values and create personalized good life plans.
- Support Systems: Facilitating connections to community resources, social networks, and supportive environments.

Despite its evidence-based foundation, the GLM faces resistance in some jurisdictions. Probation officers and treatment providers rooted in punitive models may view its emphasis on well-being as being “soft” on offenders, but education and evidence-based results can often move such individuals toward taking another look, since the GLM isn't about excusing behavior; it's about addressing root causes and equipping individuals to live better lives.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

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