
CLASSIFICATION OF SEX OFFENDERS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do the sex offender levels mean?

Sex offender levels are determined by taking into account several factors about the offender and the nature of his or her crime in order to determine possible risks to the general public.

Washington state sex offender laws apply to juvenile as well as adult sex offenders. Juvenile offenders are:

- Subject to civil commitment if judged to be a sexually violent predator
- Required to register with law enforcement when released to the community
- Prohibited from enrolling in the same school as their victim or victim's siblings
- Assigned risk level classification for purposes of community notification by law enforcement

Juvenile sex offender risk level classification is assigned by an Interagency Committee of representatives from:

- Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration
- Children's Administration
- Law Enforcement (county and/or city)
- Department of Corrections
- Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Victim/Witness

Additionally, local school districts and private schools are notified when sex offenders are returned to the community and victim notification is made if requested.

Note: The risk level descriptions are specific to both adult and juvenile sex offenders in the state of Washington.

RISK LEVEL 1	<p>Level 1 sex offenders present the lowest risk for re-offense to the community at large.</p> <p><u>Some sample characteristics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These individuals normally have not exhibited predatory type characteristics• Most have successfully participated or are participating in approved sex offender treatment programs.• Many are first time offenders. <p>You may call law enforcement to ask about a specific individual if you suspect they might be a sex offender, but the law does not mandate community notification.</p>
RISK LEVEL 2	<p>Level 2 sex offenders generally present a moderate risk to re-offend within community at large.</p> <p><u>Some sample characteristics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These individuals may be considered a Level 2 sex offender because of the nature of previous crime(s).• For some Level 2 sex offenders, lifestyle (drugs and alcohol use, other criminal activity) may influence their potential to re-offend.• These individuals often have; more than one victim and/or took advantage of a position of trust and authority, such as a teacher, coach, clergy, or babysitter.
RISK LEVEL 3	<p>Level 3 sex offenders pose a high risk to re-offend within the community at large.</p> <p><u>Some sample characteristics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most have prior sex crime convictions as well as other criminal convictions.• Some have predatory characteristics and may seek out victims unknown to the offender.• These individuals may have used violence in their crime.• These individuals may have refused or failed to complete approved sex offender treatment programs.

LIST OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES ON LAWS AND INFORMATION SOURCES REGARDING SEX OFFENDERS AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Where can I find more information in Washington State?

- Official State Government Website <http://access.wa.gov/>
- Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs:
<HTTP://WWW.WCSAP.ORG/HELP.HTM>
- King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC): <http://www.kcsarc.org/>
 - KCSARC's Education And Prevention Department 425.226.5062
 - KCSARC's 24-Hour Sexual Assault Resource Line 1.888.99.VOICE
 - General Sex Offender Information:
http://www.kcsarc.org/sex_offenders_safety.htm
- King County Sheriff's Office <http://www.metrokc.gov/sheriff/>
- Seattle Police Department's Sex Offender Website <http://www.seattle.gov/police>
- Washington Department of Corrections: <http://www.doc.wa.gov/>
 - Offender Transition: <http://www.doc.wa.gov/cpu/>
- Washington Juvenile Rehabilitation Association (JRA):
<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/jra/>
 - Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment:
<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/jra/SOTreatment.shtml>
- Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs:
<http://www.waspc.org/index.php>
 - WASPC's Sex Offender Information Center: <http://ml.waspc.org/>
- Health Profession Quality Assurance (can be used to check if licensed practitioner has had license suspended or revoked due to sex offense):
https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/hpqa1/Application/Credential_Search/profile.asp

Local

- For a list of Community Sexual Assault Programs, go to
<http://www.wcsap.org/help.htm>
- Contact your local police department for additional community resources.

- Contact your county sheriff's department for additional community resources.

Federal

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa>
- Center for Sex Offender Management: <http://www.csom.org/>

Publications

- Training for School Staff on Juvenile Sex and Kidnapping Offenders: Legislative Report – House Bill 2101:
<http://www.k12.wa.us/InstitutionalEd/pubdocs/FinalTaskForceReportHB2101.pdf>
- Notification to Schools of Registered Juvenile Sex or Kidnapping Offenders: Legislative Report – Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6580:
<http://www.k12.wa.us/InstitutionalEd/pubdocs/FinalTaskForceReportHB2101.pdf>

Legislation

- Senate Bill 6580:
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=6580&year=2005>
- House Bill 2101:
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2101&year=2005>

If there are any other resources that you believe should be on this list, please e-mail links to Kathleen.sande@k12.wa.us
