

Registered Offender Information

325.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines by which the Talbot County Sheriff's Office will address issues associated with certain offenders who are residing in the jurisdiction, and how the Office will disseminate information and respond to public inquiries for information about registered offenders.

325.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Talbot County Sheriff's Office to identify and monitor registered offenders living within this jurisdiction and to take reasonable steps to address the risks those persons may pose.

325.3 REGISTRATION

The Criminal Investigation Division supervisor shall establish a process to reasonably accommodate registration of offenders by appointing a Sex Offender Registration Coordinator. The process should rebut any allegation on the part of the offender that the registration process was too confusing, burdensome or difficult for compliance. If it is reasonable to do so, an investigator assigned to related investigations should conduct the registration in order to best evaluate any threat the person may pose to the community. Those assigned to register offenders should receive appropriate training regarding the registration process.

Upon conclusion of the registration process, the investigator shall ensure that the registration information is provided to the following as soon as possible but not later than 3 working days following registration (Md. Code CP § 11-708; Md. Code CP § 11-709):

- (a) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.
 1. Updated registrations including digital images, notification of intent to leave US or to obtain temporary lodging or to be absent from the offender's permanent residence or locations where the offender habitually lives any changes in the offender's residence, vehicle or license plate information, email or internet identifiers, phone numbers, employment, legal name, should also be sent to the Department.
- (b) The county superintendent, as defined in § 1-101 of the Education Article, and all nonpublic primary and secondary schools in the county within 1 mile of where the offender is to reside or habitually live or where an offender who is not a resident of Maryland is a transient or will work or attend school.
- (c) The local law enforcement unit in each county where the offender will reside, habitually live or will work or attend school.
- (d) The campus police agency of an institution of higher education in the State, or the local law enforcement that has primary jurisdiction for the campus if the campus does not have its own police agency, if the offender is enrolled in or carries on employment at, or is expecting to enroll in or carry on employment at the institution.
- (e) The police department, if any, of a municipal corporation if the offender:

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1. Is to reside or habitually live in the municipal corporation.
2. Escapes from a facility but resided or habitually lived in the municipal corporation before being committed to the custody of a supervising authority.
3. Changes addresses to another place of residence within the municipal corporation.

The investigator may also notify any child care facility or recreation facilities, any faith institution and any other organizations that serve children and others vulnerable to sex offenders who victimize children that are located within the community in which the offender is to reside, habitually live, work or attend school.

The Sex Offender Registration Coordinator shall establish procedures to provide notification to any person the Office deems necessary to protect the person from a specific offender (Md. Code CP § 11-718).

The refusal of a registrant to provide any of the required information or complete the process should initiate a criminal investigation for failure to register (Md. Code CP § 11-721).

325.3.1 CONTENTS OF REGISTRATION

Sex offender registration statements shall include at least (Md. Code CP § 11-705(2); Md. Code CP § 11-706):

- (a) The offender's full name and any aliases, former names, names by which the offender has been known, traditional names given by family or clan under ethnic or tribal tradition.
- (b) All addresses and places where the offender resides or habitually lives.
- (c) The name and address of each of the offender's employers of each location where the offender performs employment duties, if that location differs from the address of the employer.
- (d) The name and address of the offender's schools.
- (e) A description of the crime for which the registrant was convicted and date and jurisdiction of conviction.
- (f) Any e-mail addresses, computer log-in or screen names or identities, instant-messaging identities, and electronic chat room identities that the offender has used.
- (g) The offender's Social Security or purported Social Security number.
- (h) The offender's date of birth, purported dates of birth, and place of birth.
- (i) All identifying factors, including a physical description.
- (j) A copy of the offender's passport or immigration papers.

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- (k) Information regarding any professional licenses the offender holds.
- (l) The license plate number, registration number, and description of any vehicle, owned or regularly operated by the offender and addresses or locations where the vehicles are kept.
- (m) All telephone numbers used by the offender.
- (n) A copy of the offender's valid driver's license or identification card.
- (o) Fingerprints and palm prints.
- (p) The criminal history of the offender.
- (q) A current digital image of the offender.
- (r) The offender's signature and the date of the signature.
- (s) Any other information required by the Department or Talbot County Sheriff's Office.

If the person is a sexually violent predator, the registration statement shall also include any anticipated future residences, if known at the time of registration and documentation of treatment received for a mental abnormality or personality disorder.

If the offender has not submitted a sample for inclusion in the statewide DNA database system of the Department of State Police Crime Laboratory, a sample should be obtained as provided in the Biological Sample policy and provided to the statewide DNA database system of the Department of State Police Crime Laboratory (Md. Code CP § 11-708).

325.3.2 NOTICE TO REGISTERING OFFENDER

When an offender registers, the investigator shall:

- (a) Give written notice and explain the registration and update requirements to the offender, including:
 1. The duties of a registrant when the registrant changes residence address in this State or changes the county in which the registrant habitually lives;
 2. The duties of a registrant under Md. Code CP § 11-705;
 3. The requirement for a sex offender to register in person with the local law enforcement unit of each county where the sex offender will reside or habitually live or where the sex offender who is not a resident of this State is a transient or will work or attend school;
 4. The requirement that if the registrant changes residence address, employment, or school enrollment to another state that has a registration requirement, the registrant shall register with the designated law enforcement unit or sex offender registration unit of that state within 3 days after the change; and

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5. Obtain a statement signed by the registrant acknowledging that the supervising authority explained the requirements of this subtitle and gave written notice of the requirements to the registrant.

325.4 MONITORING OF REGISTERED OFFENDERS

The Sex Offender Registration Coordinator shall establish a system to periodically, and at least once annually, verify that a registrant remains in compliance with his/her registration requirements after the initial registration. This verification should include:

- (a) Efforts to confirm residence using an unobtrusive method, such as an Internet search or drive-by of the declared residence.
- (b) Review of information on the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Registered Sex Offender Website.
- (c) Contact with a registrant's parole or probation officer.

Any discrepancies should be reported to the registering law enforcement agency and the Maryland State Sex Offender Unit.

The Criminal Investigation Division supervisor should also establish a procedure to routinely disseminate information regarding registered offenders to Talbot County Sheriff's Office members, including timely updates regarding new or relocated registrants.

In the event a registered sex offender is arrested, the Sex Offender Registration Coordinator shall be contacted by telephone during normal business hours and by email after normal business hours. Members shall provide the Sex Offender Registration Coordinator with the name of the offender, the reason for the arrest and which detention facility the offender was transported to.

Instances that involve the offender receiving a civil or criminal citation, do not require notification to the Sex Offender Registration Coordinator.

325.5 DISSEMINATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Members will not unilaterally make a public notification advising the community of a particular registrant's presence in the community. Members who identify a significant risk or other public safety issue associated with a registrant should promptly advise their supervisor. The supervisor should evaluate the request and forward the information to the Sheriff if warranted. A determination will be made by the Sheriff, with the assistance of legal counsel as necessary, whether such a public alert should be made.

Members of the public requesting information on registrants should be provided the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Sex Offender Registry or the Talbot County Sheriff's Office's website.

The Sex Offender Registration Coordinator shall release local registered offender information to residents in accordance with Md. Code CP § 11-716 and in compliance with a Maryland Public Information Act request.

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325.5.1 RELEASE NOTIFICATIONS

Registrant information that is released should include notification that:

- (a) The offender registry includes only those persons who have been required by law to register and who are in compliance with the offender registration laws. It does not include juvenile registrants whose information is confidential and only accessible to law enforcement (Md. Code CP § 11-704.1(c)).
- (b) The information is provided as a public service and may not be current or accurate.
- (c) Persons should not rely solely on the offender registry as a safeguard against offenses in their communities.
- (d) The crime for which a person is convicted may not accurately reflect the level of risk.
- (e) Anyone who uses information contained in the registry to harass registrants or commit any crime may be subject to criminal prosecution.

325.6 INTERNAL DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

As soon as possible but not later than 3 working days after receiving notice of registration or change in registration information from another local law enforcement unit, the Office shall send a copy of the notice to the commander of each precinct or district in which the offender resides, habitually lives, works or attends school (Md. Code CP § 11-709).