

Background Information on Michigan Sex Offender Registration Act

Federal Laws

1994 Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act 42 USC 14071

- Required states to establish specific requirements for persons convicted of certain crimes against minors and convicted of sexually violent offenses or to incur a 10% reduction in their Byrne Formula Grant Funding.
- Michigan's allocation is approximately \$15 million annually, distributed to each county by formula.

1996 Megan's Law

- Information gathered by a state registration program may be disclosed for any purpose permitted under the laws of the state.

1996 Pam Lychner Act

- Requires a lifetime registration requirement for certain serious offenders and recidivists.

1998 Appropriations Act for the Department of Commerce, Justice and State (CJSA)

- Registration based on range of offenses specified by state law. Must be comparable to or which exceeds the range of offenses described in The Jacob Wetterling Act.

State Laws

1994-1995 Michigan's Sex Offenders Registration Act

- Senator Lana Pollack sponsored the main piece of legislation creating the MI Sex Offenders Act (Public Acts 286, 287, 294 and 355 of 1994.)
 1. Require registration and any change of address of persons convicted of certain sexual offenses or on parole for these offenses after October 1, 1995. This includes juveniles.
 - Register current and any change of address with local law enforcement.
 2. Minimum registration of 25 years. Lifetime registration for second or subsequent offense.
 3. 4 year felony for failure to comply with registration requirements.
- This information was available to law enforcement only. (FOIA exempt)

1996 Michigan's Sex Offenders Registration Act

- Public Act 494 of 1996, sponsored by Senator Michael Bouchard made the names on the registry available to the public via their local law enforcement agency.

1999 Michigan's Sex Offenders Registration Act

- Public Act 85 of 1999, sponsored by Senator Bev Hammerstrom made several amendments to the Sex Offenders Registration Act.
- Public Sex Offender Registry Internet available.
- The list of offenses for required registration was expanded.
- Offender required to register a current address for 25 years after conviction or a ten-year minimum measured from the date the person was released from prison and placed on parole, supervised release, or probation, whichever is longer.
- State residents sex offenders who move to another state must report the change of address to the Michigan State Police and must comply with any registration requirement in the new state of residency.
- A registrant is required to verify his or her address with the local law enforcement agency four times per year if the person is registered for one or more of the felony listed offenses.
- A registrant is required to verify his or her address with the local law enforcement agency one time per year if the person is registered for one of the listed misdemeanor offenses.

Sex Offender Registration Statistics

As of December 2002:

- 31,045 total registered sex offenders
- 2,034 juveniles
- 488 out of state
- 11,675 incarcerated
- 1,313 absconders
- 15,109 compliant (November 2002)
- Compliance Rate for Address Verification: 82%
- Internet database does not include juveniles, out of state, incarcerated, or absconders.