

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART)



**Sex Offender Registration
and Notification
in the United States:
Current Case Law and Issues**

July 2012

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

I. Overview of US Sex Offender Registration¹

Sex offender registration and notification systems have been established within the United States in a variety of ways. There are a number of resources which are referred to, loosely, as “sex offender registries.” For the purposes of clarification, we start this summary with an outline of those systems.

A. Registration is a Local Activity

In the United States, sex offender registration is conducted at the local level and the federal government does not have a system for registering sex offenders. Generally speaking, sex offenders in the United States² are required to register with law enforcement of any state, locality, territory, or tribe within which they reside, work, and attend school.

Each State has its own distinct sex offender registration and notification system. The District of Columbia and the five principal U.S. territories each have their own systems, as well, and an increasing number of federally-recognized Indian Tribes have their own sex offender registration and notification systems as well.³ Every one of these systems has its own nuances and distinct features. Every jurisdiction (meaning each State, Territory, or Tribe) makes its own determinations about who will be required to register, what information those offenders must provide, which offenders will be posted on the jurisdiction’s public registry website, and so forth.

Even though sex offender registration is not directly administered by the federal government, the federal government is involved in sex offender registration and notification in a number of meaningful ways.

B. Federal Minimum Standards

Over the last two decades Congress has enacted various measures setting “minimum standards” for jurisdictions to implement in their sex offender registration or notification systems. The first of these was passed in 1994 and is commonly referred to as the “[Wetterling Act](#).” This Act established a set of minimum standards for registration systems for the States.⁴ Two years later, in 1996, “[Megan’s Law](#)” was passed as a set of minimum standards for community notification.⁵ The most recent set of standards can be found in the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act ([SORNA](#)), which was passed in 2006.⁶ SORNA currently governs the federal minimum standards for sex offender registration and notification systems.

If a State, Tribe, or Territory chooses to refrain from substantially implementing SORNA’s standards, the jurisdiction risks losing 10 percent of its Edward R. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) funds.⁷ To date, 15 States, 2 Territories, and 27 federally-recognized Indian Tribes have substantially implemented SORNA.⁸ It is important to note that there are still variations in the registration and notification laws

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

among jurisdictions that have substantially implemented SORNA. Practitioners are advised to become familiar with the specific registration and notification systems in any and all jurisdictions within which they will be working.

C. National Sex Offender Public Website

The National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW), located at www.nsopw.gov, was administratively created by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2005 and is administered by the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking (SMART).⁹ NSOPW works much like a search engine: jurisdictions that have their own public sex offender registry websites connect to NSOPW by way of a web service or automated upload to enable NSOPW to conduct queries against the jurisdictions' websites. Only information that is publicly disclosed on a jurisdiction's own public sex offender registry website will be displayed in NSOPW's search results, and only the jurisdiction's registry website page will be displayed on the results page of NSOPW. The Department of Justice does not administer any of the registration information that is searched whenever a query is made through NSOPW, and only ensures that the information that is available on jurisdictional websites can be queried through NSOPW.¹⁰

The National Sex Offender Public Website

www.nsopw.gov



Home Search About NSOPW FAQs Public Registry Sites Education & Prevention

Welcome to the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW)

OPTIONS

-  **Search for Sex Offenders**
Search for sex offenders nationwide.
-  **About NSOPW**
Learn more about the functionality and capabilities of NSOPW.
-  **FAQs**
Find answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding the NSOPW.
-  **Public Registry Sites**
Access the public registry Web sites of the jurisdictions that participate with NSOPW.
-  **Education & Prevention**
View prevention and education materials to help parents and caregivers protect themselves and loved ones from potential victimization.

The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW), coordinated by the U.S. Department of Justice, is a cooperative effort between jurisdictions hosting public sex offender registries ("Jurisdictions") and the federal government and is offered free of charge to the public. These Jurisdictions include the 50 states, U.S. Territories, the District of Columbia, and participating tribes. The Website provides an advanced search tool that allows a user to submit a single national query to obtain information about sex offenders; a listing of public registry Web sites by state, territory, and tribe; and information on sexual abuse education and prevention.

The criteria for searching are limited to what each individual Jurisdiction may provide. Also, because information is hosted by each Jurisdiction and not by the federal government, search results should be verified by the user in the Jurisdiction where the information is posted. Users are advised to visit the corresponding Jurisdiction Websites for further information and/or guidance, as appropriate.

[Amber Alert](#) | [Victim Services](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Legal Policies and Disclaimers](#)
[U.S. Department of Justice](#) | [Office of Justice Programs](#) | [SMART Office](#)
[English](#) | [Español](#)

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

D. Federal Law Enforcement Databases

Federal law enforcement databases are utilized by law enforcement across the country to access accurate information about registered sex offenders. Registering agencies and other units of state and local law enforcement submit the information necessary to populate these databases:¹¹

1. National Sex Offender Registry: The National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) is a law-enforcement only database that is a file of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database managed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) division. It was created in the late 1990s to store data on every registered sex offender in the United States, and to provide law enforcement access to that data nationwide.¹²
2. IAFIS: The Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) is a national fingerprint database housed with the FBI. IAFIS records are linked to the offender's corresponding NSOR record at CJIS; approximately 95% of the records in NSOR have a corresponding fingerprint in IAFIS.¹³
3. NPPS: The National Palm Print System (NPPS) is a new database for palm prints housed with the FBI.
4. CODIS: The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) is the national DNA database administered by the FBI.

SORNA requires that jurisdictions submit registration information about their registered sex offenders to NSOR, and to ensure that offenders' fingerprints have been submitted to IAFIS, palm prints to NPPS, and DNA to CODIS.¹⁴

E. Federal Corrections

Part of the federal government's involvement with sex offenders who are required to register concerns the handling of those offenders as they are housed and subsequently discharged from federal correctional institutions. 18 U.S.C. §4042(c) requires that the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) or Federal Probation Officer provide notice to the chief law enforcement officer and registration officials of any state, tribe, or local jurisdiction whenever a federal prisoner required to register under SORNA is released from custody.¹⁵ As of early 2012, BOP does not register sex offenders prior to their release from incarceration, as registration is primarily a state function.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) operates a number of Detention Centers.¹⁶ However, there are no statutory or administrative requirements for these centers to provide notice to local law enforcement when a sex offender is released from custody. In

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

practice, offenders in BIA facilities generally are not registered prior to their release from incarceration.

F. Federal Law Enforcement and Investigations

SORNA designated the United States Marshals Service (USMS) as the lead agency in investigations of suspected violations of the federal law regarding failure to register as a sex offender, which is found at 18 U.S.C. §2250. In order to further their investigative capacity, the USMS has established the National Sex Offender Targeting Center (NSOTC).

G. Military Registration

As previously mentioned, the federal government does not register sex offenders. However, certain components of the Department of Defense have started to adopt policies and procedures to register and monitor sex offenders who are either active duty members, civilian employees, contractors or dependents of active duty members located on U.S. military installations at home and abroad.¹⁷ These policies do not yet connect any military registration system to the greater network of databases and websites described above.

If a person resides, works, or attends school on a military base, depending on the source and manner of the land held by the federal government and housing that base, a state might have no jurisdiction at all over matters occurring on the military base. In other words, the base may be a “federal enclave” where only federal law applies.¹⁸ However, offenders convicted by military tribunals of registerable sex offenses are required under SORNA to register with any jurisdiction where they live, work or go to school.

H. Summary

This hybrid framework of state, territorial, tribal, local, and federal laws and policies is the context in which the case law regarding sex offender registration and notification has developed. The summary which follows intentionally avoids a discussion of the legal issues and case law surrounding prosecutions under 18 U.S.C. §2250, the federal failure to register statute. That topic is worthy of its own guide, and is largely beyond the intended scope of this handbook.

II. Who is Required to Register?

Nearly all registration requirements in the United States are triggered by a conviction for a criminal offense.¹⁹ Most jurisdictions limit their registration and notification systems to persons convicted of sex offenses and non-parental kidnapping of a minor. The inclusion of kidnapping offenses is a legacy of the federal standards discussed above; they have remained required included offenses since the passage of the first federal legislation regarding sex offender registration in 1994. Inclusion of kidnapping offenses

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

in a jurisdiction's sex offender registry has been largely upheld by the courts.²⁰ Some states also include other violent or dangerous offenders in their registration and notification system.²¹

When jurisdictions specifically outline the offenses that require registration, there is little question as to who is required to register. Most jurisdictions, however, also include "catch-all" provisions which, in varying forms, generally require any person convicted of an offense which is by its nature a sex offense to register as well.

A more difficult situation arises when a convicted sex offender moves from one jurisdiction to another, and the new jurisdiction has to make a determination as to whether the person is required to register there. When a person has an out-of-state conviction, most jurisdictions require registration for any offense which is 'comparable,' 'similar,' or 'substantially similar' to a listed jurisdiction offense.²² However, when a state's registration system treats persons convicted of in-state offenses differently from those convicted out-of-state, equal protection problems may exist.²³

Making the determination as to whether an offense fits under one of these "catch-all" or "comparable" provisions has led to a great deal of litigation.²⁴ Some jurisdictions look at just the elements of the offense of conviction, while others will also look at the facts underlying the conviction.²⁵ Often, courts take an expansive view of which offenses will trigger registration requirements; at other times, the approach can be quite narrow.²⁶

Further complications may arise when an offender lives on tribal land but was convicted of a state or federal offense. For example, in New Mexico, the State cannot impose a duty to register on enrolled tribal members living on tribal land who have been convicted of federal sex offenses.²⁷ At the same time, in neighboring Arizona, persons living in Indian Country are required to keep their registration current with both the state and the tribe.²⁸

Federal courts have interpreted SORNA as directly imposing a duty on a person to attempt to register if they meet the definition of "sex offender" under SORNA.²⁹ SORNA's standards call for jurisdictions to register all persons who have been convicted of a tribal, territory, military, federal, or state sex offense.³⁰ In addition, certain foreign sex offense convictions will also trigger a registration requirement under SORNA.³¹ Generally speaking, however, a jurisdiction will not register an offender unless *that jurisdiction's laws* require that the offender be registered.³²

III. Registration of Juvenile Offenders

State juvenile justice systems within the United States have handled juvenile sex offender registration in different ways. For example, in the years prior to SORNA, many jurisdictions chose to require certain juveniles adjudicated delinquent of sex offenses to register as sex offenders, while others did not. SORNA's minimum standards, however, do require registration for certain juvenile offenders adjudicated delinquent of serious sex offenses.³³

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

Despite SORNA's requirement that juveniles adjudicated delinquent of certain offenses register for SORNA, as with all sex offender registration requirements, the implementation of this provision varies across jurisdictions. Some jurisdictions do not register any juveniles at all; some limit the ages of the offenders who might be registered; some limit the offenses for which they might be registered; and others limit the duration, frequency, or public availability of registration information.³⁴ Some jurisdictions have mandatory registration provisions for certain juveniles, some are discretionary, and some have a hybrid approach.³⁵

As with adult registration requirements, registration requirements for juveniles are generally triggered by the equivalent of a conviction of a sex offense in juvenile court, which is typically referred to as an "adjudication of delinquency." Most jurisdictions mandate registration for juveniles transferred and convicted for sex offenses in adult court.

Because of the varying nature of juvenile justice systems across jurisdictions, problems often arise when a juvenile is adjudicated delinquent in one jurisdiction and then moves to another.³⁶ Many of those issues mimic the issues discussed above regarding adult offenders.

Nevertheless, there are some issues unique to juvenile court cases. When a jurisdiction requires that juveniles be subject to registration requirements more onerous than those imposed on adults convicted of the same offense, equal protection issues exist.³⁷ In one state, the automatic lifetime registration requirement as applied to adjudicated juveniles was held to violate due process and the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.³⁸ When a juvenile court judge refuses to order a juvenile to register, as required by statute, a writ of mandamus may be successfully pursued by the State.³⁹ In 2010 the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari in the case of *U.S. v. Juvenile Male*, a case where the Ninth Circuit had held that the juvenile registration provisions of SORNA were unconstitutional when applied retroactively.⁴⁰ In its decision, however, the Supreme Court did not in any way address the question of the constitutionality of the retroactive application of SORNA's requirement that certain adjudicated juveniles register as sex offenders.⁴¹

IV. Retroactive Application & Ex Post Facto Considerations

One of the first issues to be litigated as sex offender registration systems were established across the country was whether or not an offender who had been convicted prior to the passage of the laws requiring registration could be required to register.⁴² Numerous challenges to the retroactive application of registration laws were heard throughout the 1990s and 2000s.

In 2003, the United States Supreme Court seemingly settled the issue in the case of *Smith v. Doe*, a challenge from a sex offender in the State of Alaska who argued that the imposition of registration requirements on him violated the ex post facto clause of the

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

Constitution.⁴³ The Court held that registration and notification—under the specific facts of that case—were not punitive, and could, therefore, be retroactively imposed as regulatory actions.⁴⁴

While the issue was settled for a time, litigation has since ensued based on the increased stringency of sex offender registration and notification requirements in some jurisdictions since the *Doe* decision.⁴⁵

There have been four State Supreme Courts in recent years that have held that the retroactive application of their sex offender registration and notification laws violate their respective State Constitutions.⁴⁶ On the other hand, many state courts have stood by the reasoning of the *Doe* case in continuing to affirm the retroactive application of their own registration laws.⁴⁷

For example, in one case, a federal court enjoined the enactment of a state's SORNA-implementing legislation based on ex post facto concerns brought forward by the ACLU,⁴⁸ although that injunction has since been lifted.⁴⁹ On the other hand, some offenders have been able to be removed from the registry when the statute is changed in a way which inures to their benefit,⁵⁰ and another court has held that increasing the penalties for a failure to register does not violate the ex post facto clause.⁵¹ In addition, one state requires a due process hearing before any offender is ordered to comply with its full registration requirements, including those convicted prior to the registration statute's effective date.⁵²

V. Other Constitutional Issues

As previously mentioned, nearly all persons required to register as sex offenders must do so because they have been convicted of a criminal offense. Accordingly, by the time a person is actually required to register, a number of constitutional protections have already been afforded—namely, those which inure to a defendant throughout the course of a criminal trial and sentencing.

Even after those initial protections, however, offenders often raise constitutional concerns that lead to litigation. In prosecutions for state-level failure to register cases or civil challenges to registration requirements, offenders have launched unsuccessful challenges based on the following arguments: double jeopardy,⁵³ procedural due process,⁵⁴ substantive due process,⁵⁵ equal protection,⁵⁶ ineffective assistance of counsel,⁵⁷ the Sixth Amendment right to a trial by jury,⁵⁸ cruel and unusual punishment,⁵⁹ full faith & credit,⁶⁰ the supremacy clause,⁶¹ and separation of powers.⁶²

Recently, however, in *Bond v. U.S.*,⁶³ the Supreme Court has granted standing to sex offenders to challenge SORNA on 10th Amendment grounds, where previously they had no standing to do so.⁶⁴

Although the vast majority of constitutional challenges to sex offender registration and notification requirements have been unsuccessful, there have been some notable

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

decisions based on constitutional grounds. Examples include opinions issued by state or federal courts which have held that SORNA preempts state law to the extent that any state constitutional concerns are not implicated;⁶⁵ the collection of internet identifiers violates the First Amendment;⁶⁶ being ordered to register as a sex offender triggers the protections of procedural due process;⁶⁷ publishing information about an offender's "primary and secondary targets" violates due process;⁶⁸ being ordered to register as a parole condition violates due process when the underlying convictions are not sexual in nature;⁶⁹ requiring registration for a conviction for solicitation, and not prostitution, when each offense had the same elements, violates due process;⁷⁰ an affirmative misrepresentation that an offender would not have to register as a sex offender is ineffective assistance of counsel;⁷¹ incorrect advice to an offender regarding whether he would be required to register as a sex offender is ineffective assistance of counsel;⁷² a "three-strikes" sentence based on a failure to register offense is cruel and unusual punishment;⁷³ mandatory life imprisonment for a second conviction of failure to register is cruel and unusual punishment;⁷⁴ and requiring an offender to continue to register when he had been convicted of having consensual sex with his 14-year old girlfriend (he was 18 at the time) and had his case successfully dismissed under a deferred disposition is cruel and unusual punishment.⁷⁵

There are a number of cases recently decided by the U.S. Supreme Court which will have a bearing on future litigation in the field of sex offender registration and notification. For example, the case of *Apprendi v. New Jersey* has spawned a number of challenges to registration requirements; namely, contending that a jury should be required to determine whether an offender should be subject to the additional "punishment" of sex offender registration.⁷⁶ This test as to whether sex offender registration constitutes "punishment" is the same as that used to determine whether something is "punitive" for purposes of an ex post facto analysis as discussed above. To date, most challenges under *Apprendi* have been unsuccessful.⁷⁷

Another Supreme Court case which will impact sex offender registration litigation is *Padilla v. Kentucky*,⁷⁸ which held that counsel's failure to correctly advise a client that a conviction would count as a deportable offense under the Immigration and Naturalization Act was deficient assistance under the Sixth Amendment.⁷⁹ Since the decision in *Padilla*, a number of cases have addressed the issue of whether counsel's failure to advise their client that a conviction would result in sex offender registration also runs afoul of the Sixth Amendment.⁸⁰

VI. Community Notification

Every State, Tribe and Territory that registers sex offenders also makes publicly available certain information about at least some of their sex offenders. While this community notification was originally handled via public meetings, fliers, and newspaper announcements, notification has now expanded to include publicly available and searchable websites, which are linked together via NSOPW. At least one Canadian province also makes information publicly available via a website,⁸¹ and other countries also have community notification procedures.⁸²

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

VII. Failure to Register

For an offender to have any motivation for compliance with the sex offender registration process, there must be an enforcement component. Nearly all jurisdictions which require sex offender registration also have a criminal penalty for failure to register.

Many jurisdictions hold that a failure to register is a “continuing offense,” much like larceny or escape, such that a person cannot be prosecuted for multiple failures to register within a given time frame.⁸³ Many jurisdictions require a *mens rea* of some sort to be proven prior to permitting a person to be convicted of failure to register,⁸⁴ while others hold that it is a strict liability offense.⁸⁵

All jurisdictions require that some kind of notice be given to a sex offender prior to being held criminally liable for a failure to register. That notice can be “imperfect” and still be sufficient.⁸⁶ In other cases, the notice can be constructive, and still valid.⁸⁷

Generally speaking, the proper venue for a failure to register case is the jurisdiction in which the person has failed to comply with his registration requirements. In addition, tribal court convictions for a sex offense can form the basis of a failure to register conviction.⁸⁸ However, one state has held that there is no need to prove where an offender was during the time that he failed to register.⁸⁹ The federal failure to register statute, 18 U.S.C. §2250, can also be utilized in cases where there has been interstate travel.

VIII. Residency Restrictions

One of the most debated collateral consequences of a conviction for a sex offense occurs when a jurisdiction chooses to impose residency restrictions on registered sex offenders, that is, restrictions that prohibit registered sex offenders from residing within a certain perimeter of schools, day care centers, parks, and other locations frequented by children. These residency restrictions are generally passed and enforced on a local or municipal level, although, in some circumstances, a state, tribe, or territory might pass such provisions.⁹⁰ SORNA’s minimum standards do not address or require residency restrictions in any way.

In some cases, municipal residency restrictions have been invalidated because they were deemed to have been preempted by state law.⁹¹ In another case, the residency restriction was deemed to be punitive and therefore not retroactively applicable.⁹² More frequently, however, these provisions have been upheld.⁹³

IX. Miscellaneous

One collateral consequence of a lifetime sex offender registration requirement is that a person is no longer permitted, pursuant to federal law, to be admitted to any “federally assisted housing.”⁹⁴ However, once a person has been admitted to a program such as

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

Section 8,⁹⁵ they cannot be thereafter terminated because of a new, or newly-discovered, lifetime sex offender registration requirement.⁹⁶ A person may be prosecuted for perjury if they have lied on an application for Section 8 housing about the status of a lifetime registered sex offender living in the residence.⁹⁷

Homeless or transient sex offenders have generated a great deal of litigation as states have tried to enforce registration requirements. Many states are rewriting their laws in such a way that these offenders are clearly required to register.⁹⁸ In most cases, an offender's homelessness has not prevented a successful prosecution for failure to register, although sometimes statutory or evidentiary problems have prevented successful prosecution.⁹⁹ In one case, the Court found that when an offender repeatedly uses a "mail drop" address as his legal address, he "resides" at that location for the purposes of a prosecution for failure to register as a sex offender.¹⁰⁰

Convictions for a failure to register have spawned deportation proceedings in some cases. However, a conviction for a state failure to register offense has been found not to be a crime involving "moral turpitude" under the immigration code and, therefore, a person is not removable because of that conviction.¹⁰¹

X. Conclusion

The statutes, regulations and laws addressing sex offender registration and notification in the United States are varied and complex. While this handbook seeks to provide updated and accurate information, practitioners are advised to conduct their own research to confirm that they are utilizing the most current information available.

For any questions about SORNA itself or for more information about any of the SMART Office projects described in this resource, please feel free to contact us at getsmart@usdoj.gov or visit our website at www.smart.gov.

¹ The Department of Justice makes no claims, promises, or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of this update, and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions in the contents of this update. The information appearing in this update is for general informational purposes only and is not intended to provide legal advice to any individual or entity. We urge you to consult with your own legal advisor before taking any action based on information appearing in this update.

² Except for military offenders, addressed in section I(G).

³ Federally-recognized Indian Tribes located in "PL-280" states will typically have their registration functions handled by the state within which their lands are located. 42 U.S.C. §16927(a)(2)(A), *citing* Public L. No. 83-280, c. 505, 67 Stat. 588 (1953), *codified at* 18 U.S.C. §1162 (2006).

⁴ The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, Public L. No. 103-322, §170101, 108 Stat. 2038 (1994). This was an incentive-based system, where States would be penalized (via loss of Federal grant funds) for a failure to implement its terms. The five principal U.S. territories (American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) were included under Wetterling's requirements by way of Final Guidelines issued in April of 1996. Final Guidelines for the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act, 61 Fed. Reg. 15110 (April 4, 1996).

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

⁵ In the same way that the Wetterling Act's provisions were incentive-based (*see supra* text accompanying note 4), so were the provisions of Megan's Law.

⁶ [42 U.S.C. §16901 \(2006\)](#), *et seq.* All United States Code references are current as of May 2012. Two sets of guidelines have been issued to assist in the implementation of SORNA. [The National Guidelines for Sex Offender Registration and Notification](#), 73 Fed. Reg. 38030 (July 2, 2008) [*hereinafter* Final Guidelines], [Supplemental Guidelines for Sex Offender Registration and Notification](#), 76 Fed. Reg. 1630 (Jan. 11, 2011) [*hereinafter* Supplemental Guidelines].

⁷ For any State or Territory, the penalty is contained in 42 U.S.C. § 16925:

For any fiscal year after the end of the period for implementation, a jurisdiction that fails, as determined by the Attorney General, to substantially implement this title shall not receive 10 percent of the funds that would otherwise be allocated for that fiscal year to the jurisdiction under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 ([42 U.S.C. § 3750](#) *et seq.*).

If the 10 percent penalty is assessed, the jurisdiction can apply for reallocation of those funds to use for purposes of implementing SORNA.

For Tribes that elected to function as registration jurisdictions, the penalty contained in 42 U.S.C. § 16925 may apply, if the tribe qualifies for that funding, which is determined by formula. However, there is a separate and significant penalty for non-compliance by tribes contained in 42 U.S.C. § 16927: For federally-recognized Indian Tribes that the Attorney General determines have "not substantially implemented the requirements of this subtitle and is not likely to become capable of doing so within a reasonable amount of time," the statute creates automatic delegation of SORNA functions:

. . . to another jurisdiction or jurisdictions within which the territory of the tribe is located [and requires the tribe] to provide access to its territory and such other cooperation and assistance as may be needed to enable such other jurisdiction or jurisdictions to carry out and enforce the requirements of [SORNA].

The meaning of "provide access" and other issues regarding delegation of registration and notification responsibilities under SORNA for federally-recognized Indian Tribes is discussed in documents #12 and #13 of the SMART Office's "[Topics in SORNA Implementation](#)" series.

⁸ Current as of July 5, 2012. For the current list of implemented jurisdictions, please visit http://www.smart.gov/newsroom_jurisdictions_sorna.htm.

⁹ The precursor of NSOPW was NSOPR, the National Sex Offender Public Registry, which was the official name of the website from the time of its administrative creation in 2005 until the passage of SORNA in 2006. Press Release, Dep't of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice Activates National Sex Offender Public Registry Website (July 20, 2005), *available at* http://www.amberalert.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/ojp_05_0720.htm. By July of 2006, all fifty states were linked to the Website. Press Release, Dep't of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, All 50 States Linked to Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public Registry Web Site (July 3, 2006), *available at* http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2006/July/06_ag_414.html.

¹⁰ The SMART Office does administer [TTSORS](#) (the Tribe and Territory Sex Offender Registry System), which is a system developed particularly for federally-recognized Indian Tribes and U.S. Territories which had not previously operated a sex offender registration system or website. All of the information in TTSORS is supplied and administered by the jurisdictions. The SMART Office, through its contractor, administers the network capacity and connectivity of TTSORS to NSOPW.

¹¹ For example, a local police department might submit an offender's fingerprints to the FBI at the time of arrest.

¹² *See* The Pam Lychner Sexual Offender Tracking and Identification Act of 1996, Public L. No. 104-236, 110 Stat. 3093.

¹³ Conversation with Kimberly Lough, FBI CJIS Division, NCIC Operations and Policy Unit, 2010.

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

¹⁴ In many cases, an offender will have had their fingerprints, palm prints or DNA submitted prior to the registration process, as part of their arrest, sentencing, incarceration, or at some other point in the processing of their case. Registration agencies are not required to submit duplicate entries to federal databases where a fingerprint, palm print, or DNA record already exists. Final Guidelines, *supra* note 6, at 38057.

¹⁵ [18 U.S.C. §4042\(c\)](#). The Bureau of Prisons is a Department of Justice subdivision and part of the Executive Branch. Federal Probation Officers are governed by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, a Judicial Branch Office.

¹⁶ BIA is part of the Department of the Interior, in the Executive Branch. *See generally* [Bureau of Indian Affairs' Detention Facilities](#), Office of the Inspector General Report # WR-EV-BIA-0005-2010 (“BIA reported that as of September 2009, the detention program consisted of 94 detention facilities: 23 bureau-operated facilities, 52 tribally-operated facilities under Public Law (P.L.) 93-638 contracts, and 19 tribally-operated facilities under self-governance compact agreements”).

¹⁷ *See* Army Regulation 190-45, §2-7 (2007).

¹⁸ “Federal Enclave” is a legal term of art which refers to property that is either in whole or in part under the law enforcement jurisdiction of the United States Government. *See generally* the “Enclave Clause,” U.S. CONST. Art. I, §8, cl. 17 (“[The Congress shall have Power...] To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings”); *see also* 40 U.S.C. §3112 (2006) (concerning federal jurisdiction). A similar issue arises regarding offenders located within National Parks or other federally-held land that holds the status of “federal enclave.”

¹⁹ In some jurisdictions, registration is required when a person has been civilly committed, received a withheld adjudication, found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity or incompetent to stand trial, or when ordered to register by a probation officer. *See* *Mayo v. People*, 181 P.3d 1207 (Colo. Ct. App. 2008) (civil commitment triggered requirement to register); *Price v. State*, 43 So.3d 854 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 5th Dist. 2010) (withheld adjudication); *State v. Olsson*, 958 N.E.2d 356 (Ill. App. 2011) (defendant found incompetent to stand trial was required to register); *In re Kasckarow*, 2011 N.Y. Misc. LEXIS 5074 (Oct. 25, 2011) (nolo contendere plea and withheld adjudication in Florida registerable in New York); *but see* *United States v. Moore*, 449 Fed. Appx. 667 (9th Cir. 2011) (probation condition under SORNA requiring registration for a tier I offender more than 15 years after the conviction was invalid). In addition, some jurisdictions require registration even if an offender has been pardoned of the underlying offense, *In re Edwards*, 720 S.E.2d 462 (S.C. 2011), *citing* S.C. Code § 23-3-430(F), and in some jurisdictions an offender can remain on the public registry website even if that offender no longer has any meaningful ties to the jurisdiction, *Doe v. O'Donnell*, 924 N.Y.S.2d 684 (N.Y. App. Div. 3d Dep't 2011).

²⁰ *See* *Rainer v. State*, 690 S.E.2d 827 (Ga. 2010) (non-parental false imprisonment is registerable); *Moffitt v. Commonwealth*, 360 S.W.3d 247 (Ky. Ct. App. 2012) (citing the legislative history of the Wetterling Act to support registration for kidnapping); *People v. Knox*, 903 N.E.2d 1149 (N.Y. 2009) (non-parental kidnapping and unlawful imprisonment is registerable); *State v. Smith*, 780 N.W.2d 90 (Wisc. 2010) (non-parental false imprisonment is registerable).

²¹ For example, Montana's Violent Offender registry (<http://svcalt.mt.gov/svor/search.asp>) is displayed together with its sex offender registry information. *Cf.* Mont. Code §46-23-502(13) (definition of “violent offense”).

²² *See* *Doe v. Board*, 925 N.E.2d 533 (Mass. 2010) (Maine conviction for unlawful sexual contact registerable in Massachusetts); *Skaggs v. Neb. State Patrol*, 804 N.W.2d 611 (Neb. 2011) (California conviction registerable in Nebraska); *Lozada v. South Carolina Law Enforcement Division*, 719 S.E.2d 258 (S.C. 2011) (Pennsylvania conviction for unlawful restraint registerable as kidnapping in South Carolina); *In re Shaquille O'Neal B.*, 684 S.E.2d 549 (S.C. 2009) (North Carolina juvenile adjudication for ‘indecent liberties between children’ registerable in South Carolina); *but see* *People v. Brooks*, 2012 Colo. App. LEXIS 456 (March 29, 2012) (Texas conviction not registerable in Colorado); *Sharma v. State*, 670 S.E.2d 494 (Ga. App. 2008) (Texas conviction not registerable in Georgia); *State v. Frederick*, 251 P.3d 48 (Kan. 2011) (Minnesota adjudication for criminal sexual conduct not registerable in Kansas because it is not a “conviction” under Kansas law); *State v. Hall*, 252 P.3d 770, *cert. granted*, 2011 N.M. LEXIS 363 (N.M.

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

2011) (California conviction for “annoying or molesting children” not registerable in New Mexico); *Ex parte Harbin*, 297 S.W.3d 283 (Tex. Crim. App. 2009) (California conviction for “annoying or molesting a child” not registerable in Texas); *State v. Howe*, 212 P.3d 565 (Wash. 2009) (California conviction for “lewd acts upon a child” not registerable in Washington); *State v. Werneth*, 197 P.3d 1195 (Wash. App. 2008) (Georgia conviction for Child Molestation not registerable in Washington State).

²³ See *Doe v. Pa. Bd. of Prob. & Parole*, 513 F.3d 95 (3d Cir. 2008) (Pennsylvania’s disparate treatment of in-state and out-of-state offenders violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment).

²⁴ See *United States v. Dodge*, 597 F.3d 1347 (11th Cir. 2010) (18 USC §1470 registerable under SORNA, even though it is not listed); *United States v. Byun*, 539 F.3d 982 (9th Cir. 2008) (conviction for alien smuggling which had underlying facts of sex trafficking properly triggered registration); *United States v. Hahn*, 551 F. 3d 977 (10th Cir. 2008) (probation conditions properly required registration in a fraud case when there was a prior state conviction for a sex offense); *United States v. Jensen*, 278 Fed. Appx. 548 (6th Cir. 2008) (Conspiracy to Commit Sexual Abuse is a registerable offense); *but see United States v. Jimenez*, 275 Fed. Appx. 433 (5th Cir. 2008) (where only evidence of sexual misconduct was three unsubstantiated police reports, registration requirement was inappropriate); *State v. Coman*, 273 P.3d 301 (Kan. 2012) (bestiality is not a registerable offense); *State v. Haynes*, 760 N.W.2d 283 (Mich. App. 2008) (bestiality not registerable).

²⁵ See, e.g., *Doe v. Sex Offender Registry Bd.*, 925 N.E.2d 533 (Mass. 2010) (may not consider facts underlying the conviction).

²⁶ See, e.g., *State v. Duran*, 967 A.2d 184 (Md. 2009) (highlighting the narrow approach, the Court determined that Indecent Exposure was not registerable because the lewdness element of the crime incorporated conduct that was not sexual in addition to that which could be sexual).

²⁷ *State v. Atcitty*, 215 P.3d 90 (N.M. 2009).

²⁸ *United States v. Begay*, 622 F.3d 1187 (9th Cir. 2010).

²⁹ 42 U.S.C. §16911(1). The bulk of these cases have been appeals of convictions under 18 U.S.C. §2250 and interpret the “initial registration” requirement contained in 42 U.S.C. §16913. See *Carr v. United States*, 130 S. Ct. 2229 (2010).

³⁰ “Sex Offense” is defined in 42 U.S.C. §16911(5)(A). For guidance on which persons convicted of UCMJ offenses are required to register, see *United States v. Jones*, 383 Fed. Appx. 885 (11th Cir. 2010), *citing* Department of Defense Instruction 1325.7 (*available at http://www.militarylawyers.com/uploads/DoD_Updated_Sexual_Offense_Reporting_Requirements.pdf*).

³¹ 42 U.S.C. §16911(5)(B).

³² In other words, there will be situations where SORNA imposes a registration requirement directly on an offender, but the jurisdiction where that offender lives, works or attends school refuses to register him, because the jurisdiction’s laws do not require registration for the offense of conviction.

³³ SORNA’s minimum standards require that jurisdictions register juveniles who were at least 14 years old at the time of the offense and who have been adjudicated delinquent for committing (or attempting or conspiring to commit) a sexual act with another by force, by the threat of serious violence, or by rendering unconscious or drugging the victim. “Sexual Act” is defined in 18 U.S.C. §2246. The Supplemental Guidelines for Sex Offender Registration and Notification give jurisdictions full discretion over whether they will post information about juveniles adjudicated delinquent of sex offenses on their public registry website. Supplemental Guidelines, *supra* note 6 at 1636-37.

³⁴ See, e.g., *Clark v. State*, 957 A.2d 1 (Del. 2008) (lifetime registration requirement for juvenile was not contravened by requirement to consider the “best interests of the child” in fashioning a disposition). Some states go beyond SORNA’s requirements. See, e.g., *In re J.L.*, 800 N.W.2d 720 (S.D. 2011) (14 year-old boy adjudicated delinquent for consensual sex with his 12 year-old girlfriend was ordered to register for life).

³⁵ See, e.g., *N.V. v. State*, 2008 Ark. App. LEXIS 207 (March 5, 2008) (due process hearing required prior to juvenile being required to register).

³⁶ See, e.g., *In re Crockett*, 159 Cal. App. 4th 751 (Cal. App. 1st Dist. 2008) (juvenile adjudicated delinquent of sex offense in Texas was not required to register when he moved to California).

³⁷ See *In re Z.B.*, 757 N.W.2d 595 (S.D. 2008) (treating juvenile sex offenders convicted of the same crimes as adult sex offenders differently and more harshly than the adult sex offenders served no rational purpose and violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment); *cf. In re C.P.T.*, 2008 Minn.

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

App. Unpub. LEXIS 929 (Aug. 5, 2008) (lifetime registration requirement for juveniles does not violate due process).

³⁸ *In re C.P.*, 131 Ohio St. 3d 513, 2012-Ohio-1446, 967 N.E.2d 729.

³⁹ *People v. Birkett*, 909 N.E.2d 783 (Ill. 2009).

⁴⁰ 581 F.3d 977 (2009), *vacated and remanded*, 131 S. Ct. 2860 (2011), *appeal dismissed as moot*, 653 F.3d 1081 (9th Cir. 2011).

⁴¹ In a case decided after the Supreme Court matter, it was held that SORNA's registration requirement did not contravene the confidentiality provisions of the Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act, which is found at 18 U.S.C. §503. *United States v. Juvenile Male*, 670 F.3d 999 (9th Cir. 2012).

⁴² SORNA requires that jurisdictions register offenders whose "predicate convictions predate the enactment of SORNA or the implementation of SORNA in the jurisdiction" when an offender is:

- (1) incarcerated or under supervision, either for the predicate sex offense or for some other crime;
- (2) already registered or subject to a pre-existing sex offender registration requirement under the jurisdiction's law; or
- (3) reenter the jurisdiction's justice system because of a subsequent felony conviction.

Final Guidelines at 38046; Supplemental Guidelines at 1639.

⁴³ *Smith v. Doe*, 538 U.S. 1009 (2003).

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ *See, e.g., Jensen v. State*, 905 N.E.2d 384 (Ind. 2009) (person convicted after the initial passage of the law could be required to comply with amended requirements).

⁴⁶ *Doe v. State*, 189 P.3d 999 (Alaska 2008); *Wallace v. State*, 905 N.E.2d 371 (Ind. 2009); *Maine v. Letalien*, 985 A.2d 4 (Me. 2009); *State v. Williams*, 952 N.E.2d 1108 (Ohio 2011). One additional case, *Doe v. Phillips*, 194 S.W.3d 833 (Mo. 2006), has subsequently been rendered moot. *See Doe v. Keathley*, 2009 Mo. App. LEXIS 4 (Jan. 6, 2009).

⁴⁷ *See, e.g., State v. Henry*, 228 P.3d 900 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2010); *Buffington v. State*, 2008 Ark. LEXIS 71 (Jan. 31, 2008); *Finnicum v. State*, 673 S.E.2d 604 (Ga. 2009); *State v. Yeoman*, 236 P.3d 1265 (Idaho 2010); *People v. Birkett*, 909 N.E.2d 783 (Ill. 2009).

⁴⁸ *ACLU v. Masto*, 2:08-cv-00822-JCM-PAL (D. Nev., Oct. 7, 2008).

⁴⁹ *ACLU v. Masto*, 670 F.3d 1046 (9th Cir. 2012).

⁵⁰ *State v. Jedlicka*, 747 N.W.2d 580 (Minn. App. 2008); *see also Flanders v. State*, 955 N.E.2d 732 (Ind. App. 2011).

⁵¹ *Buck v. Commonwealth*, 308 S.W.3d 661 (Ky. 2010).

⁵² See the procedure followed in Massachusetts, where the Sex Offender Registry Board must find that the offender poses a danger to the community before requiring registration: 803 CMR 106(B), available at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/sorb/sor-regulations.pdf>.

⁵³ *State v. Larson*, 2008 Minn. App. Unpub. LEXIS 1525 (Dec. 30, 2008); *State v. Sparks*, 657 S.E.2d 655 (N.C. 2008); *State v. Green*, 230 P.3d 654 (Wash. App. 2010).

⁵⁴ *Meza v. Livingston*, 607 F.3d 392 (5th Cir. 2010) (defendant had a liberty interest in being free from registration requirements where he had not been convicted of a sex offense); *State v. Arthur H.*, 953 A.2d 630 (Conn. 2008) (no due process hearing required); *Doe v. Dep't of Public Safety*, 971 A.2d 975 (Md. App. 2009) (presumption of dangerousness flowing from a rape conviction was permissible).

⁵⁵ *Woe v. Spitzer*, 571 F.Supp.2d 382 (E.D. N.Y. 2008) (when amended statute extended the registration period by ten years three days before petitioner's registration requirement expired, there was no protected liberty interest).

⁵⁶ *Doe v. Jindal*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 100408 (E.D. La., Sept. 7, 2011). California has a long line of cases litigating equal protection issues in sex offender registration cases, based on *People v. Hofsheier*, 129 P.3d 29 (Cal. 2006).

⁵⁷ Nearly all of these cases have focused on sex offender registration as a "collateral consequence" of conviction, and cases involving whether a guilty plea is knowing, voluntary and intelligent also discuss the issue. *See United States v. Cottle*, 355 Fed. Appx. 18 (6th Cir. 2009); *Mireles v. Bell*, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 2451 (D. Mich. Jan. 11, 2008); *State v. Flowers*, 249 P.3d 367 (Idaho 2011); *Magyar v. State*, 18 So.3d 807 (Miss. 2009) (citing thorough collection of controlling caselaw across the country); *People v. Gravino*, 928 N.E.2d 1048 (N.Y. 2010) (Guilty Plea); *State v. Nash*, 48 A.D.3d 837 (N.Y. App. Div. 3d Dep't 2008); *see also United States v. Molina*, 68 M.J. 532 (U.S.C.G. CCA 2009) (mutual misunderstanding of registration requirement was grounds for withdrawing a guilty plea entered pursuant to

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

a plea agreement); *State v. Bowles*, 89 A.D.3d 171 (N.Y. App. Div. 2d Dep't 2011) (offender has the right to the effective assistance of counsel in a risk level assessment (SORA) hearing).

⁵⁸ See *Thomas v. United States*, 942 A.2d 1180 (D.C. 2008) (underlying misdemeanor charges which required registration upon conviction were "petty" for purposes of the Sixth Amendment, and a jury trial was not required); *In re Richard A.*, 946 A.2d 204 (R.I. 2008); *but see Fushek v. State*, 183 P.3d 536 (Ariz. 2008) (because of the seriousness of the consequences of being designated a sex offender, jury trial must be afforded when there is a special allegation of sexual motivation in a misdemeanor case).

⁵⁹ *People v. Nichols*, 176 Cal. App. 4th 428 (3d Dist. 2009) (28 years to life sentence for failure to register under California's three-strikes law did not violate the 8th Amendment); *People v. T.D.*, 292 Mich. App. 678 (2011) (requiring a juvenile to register was not cruel and unusual punishment).

⁶⁰ *Rosin v. Monken*, 599 F.3d 574 (7th Cir. 2010) (offender convicted in New York was promised in his plea agreement that he would never have to register as a sex offender, but when he moved to Illinois and was required to register under its laws, it was not a violation of the Full Faith and Credit Clause).

⁶¹ *United States v. King*, 431 Fed. Appx. 630 (10th Cir. 2011).

⁶² *State v. Caton*, 260 P.3d 946 (Wash. Ct. App. 2011).

⁶³ 131 S.Ct. 2355 (2011).

⁶⁴ See *United States v. Reynolds*, 132 S.Ct. 975 (2012); *United States v. Smith*, 655 F.3d 839 (8th Cir. 2011).

⁶⁵ *Doe v. Keathley*, 2009 Mo. App. LEXIS 4 (Jan. 6, 2009).

⁶⁶ *Doe v. Shurtleff*, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 73787 (D. Utah Sept. 25, 2008), *vacated after legislative changes*, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 73955 (D. Utah Aug. 20, 2009).

⁶⁷ *Brown v. Montoya*, 662 F.3d 1152 (10th Cir. 2011).

⁶⁸ *State v. Briggs*, 199 P.3d 935 (Utah 2008).

⁶⁹ *Ex parte Evans*, 338 S.W.3d 545 (Tex. Crim. App. 2011)

⁷⁰ *Doe v. Jindal*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 43818 (E.D. La., March 29, 2012).

⁷¹ *United States v. Rose*, 2010 CCA LEXIS 251 (A.F.C.C.A. June 11, 2010)

⁷² *People v. Fonville*, 804 N.W.2d 878 (Mich. Ct. App. 2011)

⁷³ *Gonzalez v. Duncan*, 551 F.3d 875 (9th Cir. 2008).

⁷⁴ *Bradshaw v. State*, 671 S.E.2d 485 (Ga. 2008).

⁷⁵ *State v. Dipiazza*, 778 N.W.2d 264 (Mich. Ct. App. 2009).

⁷⁶ 530 U.S. 466 (2000).

⁷⁷ See *Colorado v. Rowland*, 207 P.3d 890 (Colo. Ct. App. 2009); *State v. Meredith*, 2008 Minn. App. Unpub. LEXIS 324 (April 8, 2008).

⁷⁸ 130 S. Ct. 1473 (2010).

⁷⁹ *Id.* Certiorari has been granted in a case for the October 2012 term which will take up the issue of whether the decision in *Padilla* should apply retroactively. *Chaidez v. United States*, 132 S. Ct. 2101 (2012).

⁸⁰ *Rodriguez-Moreno v. Oregon*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 151123 (D. Or. Nov. 15, 2011) (failure to advise of registration requirements is not ineffective assistance of counsel); *Taylor v. State*, 698 S.E.2d 384 (Ga. Ct. App. 2010) (counsel was deficient for not advising of sex offender registration requirements); *People v. Fonville*, 804 N.W.2d 878 (Mich. Ct. App. 2011) (counsel was ineffective for not advising of sex offender registration requirements).

⁸¹ The Canadian Province of Alberta maintains a website listing high-risk sex offenders:

http://www.solgps.alberta.ca/safe_communities/community_awareness/serious_violent_offenders/Pages/high_risk_offenders_listing.aspx.

⁸² There is a disclosure scheme in place in the United Kingdom authorizing law enforcement to provide details of certain sex offenders, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/child-sex-offender-disclosure/>, and a bill has recently passed which will enable website and other public notifications in the province of Western Australia, Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2011, Bill No. 236 (Assented to March 15, 2012).

⁸³ See *United States v. George*, 625 F.3d 1124 (9th Cir. 2010); *State v. Cook*, 187 P.3d 1283 (Kan. 2008); *Longoria v. State*, 749 N.W.2d 104 (Minn. App. 2008).

⁸⁴ *In re C.P.W.*, 213 P.3d 413 (Kan. 2009); *People v. Haddock*, 48 A.D. 3d 969 (N.Y. App. Div. 2008); *State v. Vick*, 2010 Wash. App. LEXIS 2462 (Nov. 2, 2010).

Sex Offender Registration and Notification in the United States

⁸⁵ Christie v. State, 2008 Ark. App. LEXIS 10 (Jan. 9, 2008); State v. T.R.D., 942 A.2d 1000 (Conn. 2008).

⁸⁶ Petway v. State, 661 S.E.2d 667 (Ga. App. 2008) (pre-release notice of registration requirements is not a prerequisite to the obligation to register); Commonwealth v. McBride, 281 S.W.3d 799 (Ky. 2009) (lack of notice did not relieve offender of absolute duty to register).

⁸⁷ See United States v. Leach, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 104703 (D. Ind. Nov. 6, 2009); United States v. Benevento, 633 F. Supp. 2d 1170 (D. Nev. 2009); State v. Bryant, 614 S.E.2d 479, 488 (N.C. 2005) (“the pervasiveness of sex offender registration programs [combined with additional factors in this case] certainly constitute circumstances which would lead the reasonable individual to inquire of a duty to register in any state upon relocation”).

⁸⁸ See United States v. Shavanaux, 647 F.3d 993 (11th Cir. 2011) (domestic violence prosecution).

⁸⁹ State v. Peterson, 186 P.3d 1179 (Wash. App. 2008).

⁹⁰ See, e.g., Cal. Penal Code §3003.5 (2012); Idaho Code § 18-8329 (2012); 57 Okla. Stat. §590 (2012).

⁹¹ People v. Oberlander, 880 N.Y.S.2d 875 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 2009) (Rockland County residency restriction preempted by New York State law); People v. Blair, 873 N.Y.S.2d 890 (Albany City Ct. 2009) (Albany County residency restriction preempted by New York State law); G.H. v. Twp. of Galloway, 951 A.2d 221 (N.J. 2008) (New Jersey law preempted municipal residency restrictions); *contra* United States v. King, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 94582 (W.D. Okla. Oct. 9, 2009) (Oklahoma’s residency restrictions did not present an obstacle to complying with federal sex offender registration requirements).

⁹² See Commonwealth v. Baker, 295 S.W.3d 437 (Ky. 2009) (Kentucky’s residency restrictions exceeded the nonpunitive purpose of public safety and thus violated the ex post facto clause); *but see* McAteer v. Riley, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 26209 (M.D. Ala. March 31, 2008) (“The court expresses no opinion today on whether McAteer could present evidence and arguments to establish by the clearest proof that the residency and employment restrictions violate the ex post facto clause and leaves that question for another day”); R.L. v. State Dep’t of Corr., 245 S.W.3d 236 (Mo. 2008) (by attaching new obligations to past conduct, residency restrictions violate the bar on retrospective laws).

⁹³ State v. Stark, 802 N.W.2d 165 (S.D. 2011) (discussing state-level loitering and safety zone provisions).

⁹⁴ 42 U.S.C. §13663.

⁹⁵ ‘Section 8’ is the common shorthand reference to the housing assistance provisions contained in the United States Housing Act of 1937, ch. 896, Title I, § 8 (Sept. 1, 1937), as amended.

⁹⁶ Miller v. McCormick, 605 F.Supp.2d 296 (D. Me. 2009).

⁹⁷ Johnson v. California, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 101623 (C.D. Cal. July 25, 2011).

⁹⁸ Santos v. State, 668 S.E.2d 676 (Ga. 2008) (registration requirements unconstitutionally vague); *see also* State v. Crofton, 2008 Wash. App. LEXIS 1283 (June 2, 2008) (weekly registration requirement for homeless offenders permissible).

⁹⁹ See Branch v. State, 917 N.E.2d 1283 (Ind. Ct. App. 2009) (homeless defendant was successfully prosecuted for failure to register when he failed to inform authorities that he had left a shelter); Milliner v. State, 890 N.E.2d 789 (Ind. Ct. App. 2008) (offender kicked out of house by wife and staying with friends had to update his registration every time he moved); Tobar v. State, 284 S.W.3d 133 (Ky. 2009) (when offender did not notify authorities of leaving homeless shelter, conviction for failure to register was proper); State v. Samples, 198 P.3d 803 (Mont. 2008) (when offender failed to notify authorities of leaving shelter, conviction was proper); Breeden v. State, 2008 Tex. App. LEXIS 2150 (March 26, 2008) (offender who moved out of hotel into car in parking lot of hotel properly convicted and sentenced to 55 years); *but see* Commonwealth v. Bolling, 893 N.E.2d 371 (Mass. App. 2008) (offender did not need to update his address when he found a friend willing to take him in for a few days); Commonwealth v. Wilgus, 975 A.2d 1183 (Pa. Super. 2009) (where there was no “residence” to register, a homeless person could not be convicted of failure to register); State v. Dinkins, 339 Wis.2d 78 (2012) (offender was charged with failure to register, prior to release from incarceration, for failure to provide a residence address, and this was not permissible).

¹⁰⁰ United States v. Pendleton, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 85347 (D. Del. Sept. 18, 2009).

¹⁰¹ Efange v. Holder, 642 F.3d 918 (10th Cir. 2011); Plascencia-Ayala v. Mukasey, 516 F.3d 738 (9th Cir. 2008), *overruled on other grounds by* Marmolejo-Campos v. Holder, 558 F.3d 903 (9th Cir. 2009).