

***“The obscure we see eventually.
The completely obvious, it seems, takes longer.”***
- Edward R. Murrow -

RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS

“ The sex offender residency restriction was a very well-intentioned effort to keep the children of our communities safe from sex offenders. It has, however, had unintended consequences that effectively decrease community safety. ”

(Iowa Coalition against Sexual Assault)

Studies conducted by the Minnesota Department of Corrections and Colorado Department of Public Safety have not shown any correlation between sex offender recidivism and living near schools or parks.

YEARS OF RESEARCH...

“ Decades of criminological research have concluded that stability and support increase the likelihood of successful reintegration for offenders, and public policies that make it more difficult for offenders to succeed may jeopardize public safety. ”

(Petersilia, 2003)



Research directly contradicts the common belief that someone once sanctioned for a sex offense will inevitably reoffend.



Registered sex offenders have the lowest recidivism rates when compared to domestic violence, battery, drug offenses, theft, robbery, DUI, and assault. The only crime with a lower recidivism rate is murder.

(Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006)



Misleading information and panic-mongering about “stranger danger” make formulating effective policy almost impossible.



Taxpayers are not well served by a registration system that costs millions of dollars and does not provide the intended public safety benefit.



TexasVoices
FOR REASON AND JUSTICE

***Pursuing Rational
Laws and Policies***



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TVRJ, Inc., a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization

Texas Voices for Reason and Justice is a statewide, non-profit, volunteer organization devoted to promoting a more balanced, effective, and rational criminal justice system. TVRJ advocates for common sense, research-based laws and policies through education, legislation, litigation, and support for persons required to register for sex-related offenses as well as for members of their families.

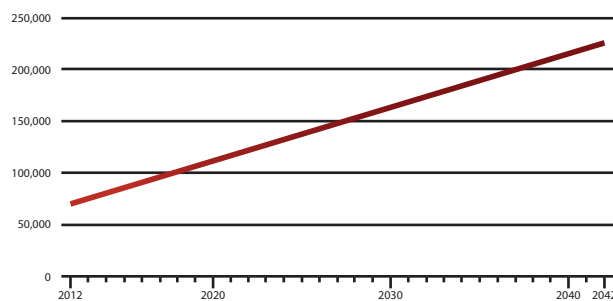
We Believe:

- No sexual abuse is ever acceptable.
- Sex offense laws and policies should be based on sound research and common sense, not panic or paranoia.
- Current laws and policies that paint all sex offenders with one broad brush are counter-productive, wasteful, and cause needless harm.
- Each offense must be judged on its own merits with a punishment that fits the crime and does not waste taxpayer dollars.
- The public sex offender registry and residency restriction laws do not protect children but instead, ostracize and dehumanize entire families.
- Money spent on purely punitive measures would be better used for prevention, healing, and rehabilitation.

The sex offender registry is a public listing of every person who has been convicted of or pled guilty to sex offense charges regardless of the nature of the offense or their risk to reoffend.

Most are required to register for LIFE.

There are considerably more than 70,000 people listed on the Texas Sex Offender Registry and over 100 people are added every week.



The vast majority of ‘sex offender’ laws and policies are driven by the myth of ‘stranger danger’ when in fact...



Over 90% of offenders, both adolescents and adults, are family members, friends of the family, or persons well-known and trusted. Strangers commit relatively few sex offenses.

***“It ain't what you don't know
that gets you into trouble.***

It's what you know for sure that just ain't so.”

- Mark Twain -

***“There is always an easy solution to every
problem - neat, plausible, and wrong.”***

- H. L. Mencken -

The Public Sex Offender Registry...

...lumps everyone together, regardless of his or her crime, implying a false equivalence.

...is an ineffective, inaccurate, and expensive database that does not reduce recidivism.

...hinders the ability of registered people to acquire employment and housing.

...creates a false sense of security for people living in communities.

...leads people to believe sex offenders are the only ones committing sex crimes, but statistics show the vast majority of sex crimes (between 87% and 96%) are committed by someone not on a publicly accessible registry.

...is a social death sentence for people who are required to register and spreads the stigma to family members like a state-sponsored malignancy.