



**Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency
for the District of Columbia
633 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004**

CSOSA FACT SHEET

May 2004

Did You Know?

- The Sex Offender Registration Act of 1999 places the sex offender registration function within the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA).
- The District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department is responsible for releasing sex offender information to the public.
- Community Supervision Services, within CSOSA, registers adult sex offenders who have been convicted, who have been found not guilty by reason of insanity, or who are adjudicated sexual psychopaths.
- Sex offenders who do not comply with registration requirements may be subjected to criminal penalties. The first violation is a misdemeanor offense subject to 180 days imprisonment, \$1000 fine, or both. A second offense is a felony punishable by 5 years imprisonment, \$25,000 fine, or both.
- CSOSA has established a link with the Federal Bureau of Investigation so that DC sex offenders will be included in the National Sex Offender Registry as required by law.

In 1997, the District of Columbia enacted its first Sex Offender Registration Act (Megan's Law). The Act required the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to register sex offenders who reside, work or attend school in the District of Columbia and to notify the public of their presence in the community. This initial law was repealed and was replaced by the District of Columbia Sex Offender Registration Act of 1999. This Act places the sex offender registration function within the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA). The MPD maintains responsibility for releasing sex offender information to the public. The Act does not authorize CSOSA to make sex offender registration information available to the public.

CSOSA assumed official responsibility for the registration of sex offenders on October 1, 2000. Community Supervision Services (CSS) within CSOSA registers adult sex offenders who have been convicted, who have been found not guilty by reason of insanity, or who are adjudicated sexual psychopaths. Section 2 of the Sex Offender Registration Act of 1999 includes a list of offenses requiring registration.

Each registrant is classified as a Class A, Class B or Class C offender, based upon the offense of conviction. The Class A offenses are considered the most serious offenses; this category has a lifetime registration requirement. Class B and C offenders are required to register for 10 years from the date of sentencing or for the duration of their period of supervision, whichever is longer. Class C offenders are not listed on the public website pursuant to the Act. MPD maintains a website where information on Class A and B sex offenders can be obtained over the Internet (www.mpd.org). Complete lists of all registered sex offenders can be reviewed at your local MPD district.

CSS staff work closely with Community Supervision Officers (CSOs) in the Sex Offender Unit to identify sex offenders supervised by CSOSA who

are required to register. CSOSA also informs sex offenders of their duty to register and the penalties for noncompliance. Each sex offender is required to read and sign a form stating that his or her duties under the Act have been explained.

A state-of-the-art database containing the sex offender registry information is maintained by the CSOSA's Office of Information Technology. All information regarding active registrants is transmitted electronically to MPD and the FBI.

CSOSA collects the following information on sex offenders: full name and aliases; date of birth; sex and race; height and weight; eye and hair color;

another jurisdiction.

The law provides dispute resolution procedures in the Superior Court to consider challenges to registration requirements. To challenge a determination, the person must provide CSOSA with a notice of intent to seek review of the determination and, within 30 days thereafter, file a motion setting forth the facts disputed. Registration information pertaining to that person is not released to the public until the Court certifies that the person must register under the Act, or the person fails to file a motion within the required time allowed, or the motion is withdrawn or dismissed.

Other government agencies have the responsibility to notify CSOSA or MPD about sex offenders. These agencies include the Department of Corrections, the Bureau of Prisons, the DC Commission on Mental Health and Superior Court. In December 2000, the Council of the District of Columbia approved the final rules proposed by the MPD, the "Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification Rulemaking Approval Resolution of 2000," which provide for interagency coordination and delineate the guidelines for sex offender registration and community notification.

CSOSA has established a link with the Federal Bureau of Investigation so that DC sex offenders will be included in the National Sex Offender Registry as required by law. CSOSA will also work with surrounding jurisdictions to share information on sex offenders who work or attend school across state lines. It is important to note that the Sex Offender Registry serves an investigative need too by allowing law enforcement to access the registry database when sex crimes occur in the community.



any identifying marks or characteristics; home, employment and school addresses (which may be identified by block only); photograph, fingerprints; and offenses requiring registration, date of conviction, jurisdiction of conviction and any other registration offense. All sex offenders are required to complete periodic registration updates with CSOSA. They must notify CSOSA within 72 hours of any changes to their registry profile to ensure that the information is accurate and complete.

Sex offenders who do not comply with the registration requirements may be subjected to criminal penalties. CSOSA reports all cases of noncompliance to the MPD. The first violation is a misdemeanor offense subject to not more than 180 days imprisonment, \$1000 fine, or both. A second offense is a felony punishable by not more than 5 years imprisonment, \$25,000 fine, or both. These penalties apply even if the first case of noncompliance occurred in