

Sex Offenders: What Every Parent Must Know to Protect Their Child



Table of Contents

Title	Page
Copyright, Legal Notice and Disclaimer	3
Foreward	4
Introduction	5
Sex Offenders: What is Fact and what is Fiction?	7
What is a Sex Offender's Profile?	8
Is the Internet a Parent's Friend or Foe?	10
What Every Parent Must Know about Social Websites Like MySpace	12
What are the Different Types of Sexual Abuse?	17
Some Important Theories about Child Molesters	19
How to Recognize the Characteristics of Incest Offenders	23
How Incest Offenders Manipulate Their Victims	26
Sex Offenders Who Live in Denial	27
What About Female Sex Offenders?	31
What are Juvenile Sex Offenders?	33
Adolescent Sexual Offenders and Risk for Re-offense	35
Sexual Behavior during Pre-adolescence, What Parents Should Look Out For	37
How Parents can Differentiate Normal Sexual Behavior from Abnormal	39
What to do When Sexual Abuse Involves a Child	41
The Psychological and Emotional Effects of Sexual Abuse on Child Victims	42
Signs of Sexual Abuse in Your Children	45
Child Victim Statistics	48
Megan's Law	50
Can Online Sex Offender Databases be Trusted?	53
List of Registrable Sex Offenses	55
List of Registrable Juvenile Sex Offenses	63
Conclusion	67
References	68

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Foreward

In today's world, the term caveat emptor, or buyer beware, has never been more appropriate. The term has evolved, however, in our new information society to caveat lector or readers beware.

The reason for this phenomenon is that so much of what is available today in books and ebooks is presented without regard to factual basis, source content or even basic truth! We in the factual information supply business, are constantly faced with unethical uses of the written word in so many adverse contexts that it dizzies the mind; leading one to easily extol: "What should I believe?"

This evolution of the species of "written fraud" is predominant mainly because the written word has never been so widely chosen to sell a concept or product, rather than to simply inform the reader.

This book, written by a very talented and honest writer Cathy Taylor, takes a clear and concise contextual approach to certain facets of the evolving problem of how to deal with sexual predators in our society. In days past while there existed just as many per capita sex offenders; times are different now because of the explosion of information and the ready access to just about all types of it.

Where can you go for the truth? In my humble view, it has become increasingly clear that even some bastions of credibility have foregone the written truth and substituted inadequate, incompetent and just plain false writings in the pursuits of the all might buck. So, as an information scientist, when I am presented with someone credible who has a credible work, I am loathe to do anything but to help promote it, it for no other reason than to do my part to preserve the integrity of a piece of truth in the ever-diminishing world of fact.

Sex Offenders: What Every Parents Must Know to Protect Their Child is a study in the facts surrounding the promotion of a clearer understanding of sexual predators, how they are handled in society (from a cataloguing and informational perspective) and what you can do with the information you can get for free in order to help you to determine if there exists a threat to your children, yourself, or other members of your family.

This is a simple and concise work that should be in everyone's family library.



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Introduction



There are individuals in our society whose sole purpose in this life is to prey upon our children. These predators come from all walks of life and are impossible to pick out of a crowd. This ebook provides critical information pertaining to sex offenders and the many ways they prey upon our children. It is our responsibility as parents to protect our children from these monsters. This information better equips parents to better protect their children and grandparents to protect their grandchildren.

We'll present factual information concerning sex offenders and the kinds of assault they can perpetrate on our children. Even though the media has promoted much fear about complete strangers sexually abusing our children, the truth is that in most instances, the perpetrator is ***someone that the victim knows and completely trusts***. The best way to protect yourself and your children is with the right kind of knowledge combined with appropriate action.

Predatory child sex offenses are the crimes more rapidly discovered these days than in the history of law enforcement. Each year hundreds of thousands of children are victims of sexual abuse. Due to a significant lack of resources, however, law enforcement is simply unable to follow up on the majority of the leads they receive daily. That fact alone is even more reason that parents need to be actively identifying and helping to prevent this type of crime. As mentioned recently on Oprah, there is a **Senate Bill 1738** bill in the House currently awaiting approval called the **Protect Our Children Act**. This Act will:

- Authorize over \$320 million dollars over the next five years for additional law enforcement to investigate child exploitation.
- Mandate that child rescue be a top priority for law enforcement receiving federal funding.

- Allocate funds for more high-tech computer software and hardware that has proven to track down internet predators.

Last year alone, U.S. law enforcement identified over 300,000 criminals who are trafficking in movies and photographs depicting young children being raped and tortured. Experts believe that one in every three of these criminals have perpetrated crimes on local child victims. Child pornography trafficking over the internet has left a trail of evidence leading straight to the offenders, but the vast majority of these children will never be rescued because investigators are overwhelmed, outnumbered, and underfunded. That is why it is critically important that everyone, especially parents, get involved! There is always more strength in numbers, and with more people trained to detect this kind of problem, the better chance we have of curtailing it.

As you will learn here, there is no such thing as a **typical sex offender profile**. That is why we, as parents, must arm ourselves with all of the knowledge that is available. This ebook was created to provide you with pertinent information about the ways in which sex offenders operate. It will also alert parents to the signs of sexual abuse and provide critical information that can potentially keep your children safe from predators.



The Key for Parents:

Law enforcement agencies do what they can every day to protect our kids but they need more “feet on the street” and we can help by supporting Senate Bill 1738. Go to www.senate.gov to find contact information for the senators in your state. Write or phone and be sure to tell them, “Vote yes on Senate Bill 1738-The Protect Our Children Act.

Sex Offenders: What is Fact and what is Fiction?



Have you ever thought to yourself, “Well, he doesn’t look like a sex offender?” How many times have we said those words when we see someone in the media that has been charged with horrendous crimes against a child?

For so many of us, the image we have of a sex offender is just a “dirty old man” who hangs out at the park or playground waiting on his chance to lure a child away with a piece of candy. Or the alternative is a mask-wearing, knife-wielding rapist lurking in a dark alley waiting to grab some unsuspecting woman walking by. If sex offenders were only that easy to spot, the job of law enforcement would be so much easier and our children would be much safer.

That image could not be further from the truth. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, complete strangers carrying out random attacks on our children only account for about 6% of child sex abuses cases. **Stepfathers** and **uncles** as well as **fathers** and **grandfathers** are most often reported. While women can and sometimes do commit acts of child sexual abuse, primarily offenders are most often men.



The Key for Parents:

Sex offenders don't all LOOK alike. You have to watch for certain behaviors or “signs and indicators” that we will present here.

What is a Sex Offender's Profile?

Let's be clear upfront: there really is NO common profile for a sex offender. Most



people want to know who sex offenders are based solely on certain *characteristics or demographics* and other *indicators* that can easily help them identify offenders. They are looking for the quick way to weed out potential offenders.

If only it was that easy. The unfortunate reality is that research has proven time and time again that there is simply no such thing as “**sex offender profile.**” Research continues to show that sex offenders are such a diverse and heterogeneous population. Regrettably these people are continually grouped together under one label as “sex offenders” simply based upon the types of crimes they commit. But that doesn't make it easier for us protect our children.

Knowing the truth that sex offenders are uniquely and wildly different *will* help you. Don't rule anybody out if you are suspicious for any reason. For example, there is no “typical” age that represents the sex offender -- some are young while others are elderly and the often vary greatly in age. How old a person is does not determine whether or not they will become a sex offender.

Your best choice is to always follow your instincts. If something about a person doesn't feel right, just stay away from them. If they are in a workplace situation where you always around them, then you can do some free background checking in the places we provide for you in this ebook (see references). Don't try to interfere with someone directly in case they turn violent. If their behavior is overwhelming evident, then a call to law enforcement is your best course of action.

Offenders have various socioeconomic statuses. This is different from other types of crime because often times one's socioeconomic status plays a part, or at least represents

a risk factor for someone to potentially become involved in other criminal activity. Sex offenders also have various levels of intelligence. One might assume that someone with intellectual limitations might be more prone to offend; however, we know that sex offenders can be highly intelligent individuals. History has taught us that intelligence doesn't equal restraint and it doesn't stop individuals from becoming sexual offenders.

Some folks might argue that a person must be insane to commit a sex offense. The truth is that most sex offenders are not insane or crazy in the truest sense of the word. Of course there are sex offenders that suffer from mental health disease(s) just as some members of the general public do; however that in itself does not cause these people to commit this type of deviant crime. People who commit sex crimes come from all walks of life and often look just like you and I.

For example, US recently arrested a pastor of a local church who was well respected throughout the community. He had a beautiful wife and two precious kids. He was also a sexual predator who molested young children -- probably a dozen or more children were his victims before he was finally caught. If you learn anything from this ebook, let it be that sex offenders can be ANYONE! And they are probably right under your nose.



The Key for Parents:

Get clear in your mind first - sex offenders can be ANYONE ... and they often are right under your nose!

Is the Internet a Parent's Friend or Foe?



The internet is a powerful tool that has opened up a new world of business and so much more. Multiple levels of communication with people around the world are now possible for us and our children. The good news is that the internet is making history and if used properly, affords our children endless opportunity for education and forging new friendships.

It allows people to communicate and share information faster than anyone would have ever thought possible just a few short years ago. The bad news is that it has also given sexual predators the chance to unite and organize online in unprecedented ways never seen before!

What parents need to know is that the internet can be far more **dangerous** place than a dark alley at 2:00 a.m. There are real-life dangers on the World Wide Web that parents must become aware of. Ignore this information at your own and your children's peril – ***it is that serious!***

By far the greatest danger to your children on the Internet lies in them communicating with people they do not know. Predators use the Internet to contact your children; establish and form a relationship with them with the specific intent to sexually abuse them every day. Now these offenders are organizing like never before as well as trading child pornography on the World Wide Web. Our biggest concern lies in their methods of acquisition much like business trade associations do – with levels of organization equal to some institutional environments.

As mentioned previously, most children are molested by someone that they know and trust. Sex offenders and child molesters know this. That is the reason child molesters will invest days, weeks, even months to become known and trusted by targeted children.

Sex offenders take every opportunity to take advantage of a child's need for affection and attention. Sex offenders are masterful manipulators. Hundreds of interviews conducted with sex offenders reveal that they actively identify and seek out those children who are in need of attention for one reason or another. Sex offenders admit they invest hours of simple conversation in order to appear to be interested in their potential victim.

It is no longer just happenstance that the "process" of sexual offending is evolving, and as a result, gets more difficult to discover and curtail. Predators look at their "work" as something to be proud of and to get better at with each new day. This is not a crime of opportunity; this is a crime of design.

Here's a good tip for all parents: those children who receive little or no attention at home are at a much greater risk of becoming a victim of sexual abuse from a predator. Safe parenting includes listening to your kids and taking an interest in everything they are doing on a daily basis.

After some time, and as the predator feels the bonding begin to happen with your child, online conversations can evolve into innocent online play such as describing private sexual thoughts. Eventually over time, as the trust is increases, interest is shown in setting up a meeting where the molestation can occur.

Many times, the abuse is so slow and gradual that the escalation into danger goes mostly unnoticed and by the time that the child realizes what has happened, they might feel that it is too late to stop. Sex offenders use a variety of methods to set up meetings with children. The anonymity of the internet allows a potential sex offender to be anybody.

The potential sex offender can portray themselves as someone of any age or any sex. It is very common for a middle age or elderly male to pretend to be an attractive teenage boy in an effort to seduce a lonely teenage girl. In short, the potential offender will be anyone the child needs or wants in order to gain the child's trust.



The Key for Parents:

Listen to your children and stay aware. Know always where they are going, who they are with, and that includes online friends! Sex offenders are masters of disguise and can and will do whatever it takes to gain a child's trust in order for them to set up the opportunity to molest.

What Every Parent Must Know about Social Websites like MySpace and FACE Book



Chances are if you have a computer your teenage son or daughter probably has a MySpace page. MySpace has certainly generated a lot of controversy because of the potential danger that lurks on this website for our children.

Predators surf MySpace for potential victims every day. So what can parents do to protect their children? One obvious answer is to not let them go onto this website. There are plenty of software programs out there that give parents the control to restrict access to any website they don't want their children visiting (see our references section at the back of this ebook for a list of software providers). Unfortunately, as we all know, once forbidden anything, kids will find a way to get it done somehow. They'll set up a MySpace page without their parent's knowledge possible from a friend's house or even the library.

In any case, communication is the key to their safety. Communication is the most vital thing you can give your teenage son or daughter and far too many parents are too busy to spend the time with their kids. Some parents have a bad habit of talking at their kids instead of with them. We need to learn to listen carefully to what are children are telling us.

Trust is a key factor in protecting your child because if they aren't telling you the truth, you have limited ability to help them should the need arise. Some parents hold on to the old adage "If you can't beat them, then join them," and set up their own MySpace page. Many kids think it is cool that mom or dad has a MySpace page. Ask your kids for advice on how to set up a unique profile, set up music choices and how to talk to people. Most kids will enjoy the opportunity to show mom or dad a thing or two about computers and how the whole thing works.

More than likely you will be amazed at just how much your child knows. Once you have a

MySpace page be sure to ask your child to add you as a friend and vice versa. This way you can see what they are posting and what friends they are talking to. The way that your children choose profile themselves gives you great insight into whether or not they will likely “operate behind your back.” If you choose the route of having a MySpace page, it is very important NOT to nag your child about everything that you may see on their page or read in their comments. Remember, you have been added as a friend and are not the MySpace police. You may be shocked at first when you see some of the things that kids talk about online. We forget that kids typically talk about the same stuff at school everyday -- that’s just kids being kids.

What parents have to pay attention to is what is being said “between the lines.” Be careful about two main things pertaining to MySpace. The first is the most obvious – people that contact your kids via email or instant message. Stress to your child that not everyone may be who they appear to be. In addition, let them know that no matter how nice, understanding or harmless a person appears to be, they might not be real.

Sexual predators are just that; predators that stalk their prey, looking for any sign of weakness and just waiting for their opportunity to pounce on an innocent victim. While there are many venues for sex offenders to search for victims, there are none quite as easy and abundant as social sites such as MySpace.

It is also important for children not to post careless bulletins. For instance, if your child is going somewhere or on some type of trip DO NOT let them post the details until of their trip, especially where they are going, until after they come back. Doing so beforehand could tip off any interested sex offenders, so that they could possibly preplan some type of assault.

The most practical and realistic way to protect your children from any kind of assault, whether it is online or personal, is to educate them and always have and **open, honest communication**. Don’t be afraid to scare them about the realities of what is out there. Parents need to share with their children the dark nature of some people in our society

that may want to do them harm. It is important to establish the type of relationship with your children so they feel free to discuss anything and everything with you.

Listed below are some talking points and basic, common sense advice for both children and parents to allow safer navigation of the internet:

- ✓ NEVER give out personal information such as first and last name, telephone number, parent's or other family member's names, work address or phone number, the name and location of their school, school mascot, any information relating to church or clubs etc. Teach your children to always be thinking about what identifiers could be used to find them.
- ✓ Do not allow children or teens to send an online friend a picture or other visual identifiers such as pictures of their homes, school, or school mascot.
- ✓ Children and teens should be made aware of the "private areas" of their bodies (the area of the body covered by the bathing suit) and that not only does NO ONE have the right to touch them in that area, NO ONE has the right to talk to them about those areas and this includes people online.
- ✓ Never download images from an unknown source.
- ✓ Encourage children and teens not to respond to any messages that are mean or in anyway make them feel uncomfortable. Have them show you any material that makes them worried. Also, children should tell an adult if anything happens online that makes them feel uncomfortable or frightens them in any way.
- ✓ Choose a gender-neutral screen name that doesn't contain sexually suggestive words or reveal personal information.
- ✓ Young children should not use chat rooms – the dangers are too great. As children get older, you can direct them to well-monitored kid's chat rooms.
- ✓ No child needs a camera on their computer.
- ✓ If your children take part in chat room, make sure you know which ones they visit and with whom they talk. Monitor the chat areas yourself to see what kind of conversations are taking place.
- ✓ Do not allow children or teens to personally meet with anyone they befriend online

without first checking with their parents. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the online friend is legitimate.

- ✓ Instruct your children to never leave the public chat area. Many chat rooms offer private areas where users can have one-on-one chats with other users. The issue here is that chat monitors can't read these conversations. These are sometimes called "whisper areas."
- ✓ Develop and discuss with children and teens the household rules for going online.
- ✓ Decide upon the time of day that they can be online, the length of time that they can be online, and the appropriate areas they can visit.
- ✓ Consider purchasing Internet filtering software (see the reference list) that can greatly reduce the chance of their exposure to inappropriate material. Internet filtering software should not, however, give parents a feeling of ultimate security. Although these programs can filter out many inappropriate sites, they do not filter against inappropriate chatting online.
- ✓ Do not trust that people on the Internet are really who they represent themselves to be.
- ✓ Remember that many online predators pretend to be people that they are not and will often take the persona of someone who would be of great interest to a child.
- ✓ The online predator will carefully construct their role to attract victims into online sexual encounters and/or real life meetings.
- ✓ Children should be warned and reminded often, that the person who they think they "know" on the Internet, they may not know at all.
- ✓ Warn them that there are "red flags" to remember about online friends.
- ✓ If the person just happens to like everything they do, is always supportive and always available, they should be concerned that the person is not being truthful. One way to test this is to offer inaccurate information themselves and tell the person that they like something that actually they do not like at all. Do they continue to like everything and have the same interest as you? This might be a clue.
- ✓ Parents should know who their children's online friends are.
- ✓ Parents should warn children and teens that if a "friend" is telling them to keep secrets from parents they are most likely dangerous.

- ✓ Keep the internet-connected computer in a common area of the house, never, ever in the child's bedroom. It is so much more difficult for a sex offender or predator to establish a relationship with your child if the computer screen is easily visible.
- ✓ Even with the computer in a public area of your home, parents should sit with their children when they are online.
- ✓ When the children are young they should share the family email account.
- ✓ Children should never respond to instant messaging or e-mail from strangers. I
- ✓ If your children use computers in places outside your supervision such as the public library, school or friend's homes -- parents should find out what safeguards are in place at these locations first.
- ✓ It is a good idea to have a family online agreement and place that near the computer as a constant reminder of the dangers.
- ✓ Does your child or teen spend a lot of time online? Most children who are victims on online predators spend a lot of time online, particularly in chat rooms and they often try to be secretive about the use of the computer.
- ✓ Be aware if you find pornography on the family computer. Predators often use pornography to victimize children.
- ✓ A red flag should be raised if your child receives phone calls from people you don't recognize or if your child is making phone calls to people you have never heard of before. This is especially true of long distance phone calls. Often times as predators make contact online, the next step is talk on the phone and set up a face-to-face meeting.
- ✓ Be suspicious if your child receives gifts or mail from someone you don't know. It is common for predators to send gifts, even airline tickets to entice children to meet them.
- ✓ Be very wary if your child withdraws from family and friends, or quickly turns the computer monitor off or changes the screen when an adult enters the room.



The Key for Parents:

Do not let them surf the Internet without your supervision. Have an active interest in your child's internet activities. Monitor their behavior and have open communication with them always.

What are the Different Types of Sexual Abuse?



Sexual abuse is defined as contact that happens with a minor without consent. Typically there is some type of force or coercion involved. What most people don't realize is that the first level of sexual abuse is often harassment which happens when someone makes unwelcome comments or uses inappropriate language that makes another person feel uncomfortable.

Then there is incest which first involves contact with a member of the victim's family. Oftentimes abuse occurs from a person who is in a position of trust or authority. This could be a person such as a teacher or babysitter where the child would normally have no reason to fear any kind of inappropriate action.

There are other types of abuse where force is used, as in the case of rape. In short, sexual abuse of children involves force or coercion, a situation where consent is not given or can not be given, and where there is a lack of equality between the victim and the offender. There are many different laws on the books relating to sex crimes (see the reference list at the end of this ebook). These laws vary from state to state, but basically the definition of a **victim** holds true anywhere in the United States. A victim of sexual abuse is

- Any person under the age of 18 who has sexual contact with someone who is more than four (4) years older;
- Someone under the age of 12 regardless of the age difference; and,
- Any person, regardless of age, that is forced or coerced into performing or engaging a sexual act against their will.

Current statistics show that children are most likely to be abused by someone in the immediate family. Friends of the family are the next likely group to produce offenders and

threats to our children. In most cases, children are abused by a person that they have come to know and trust. In about 94% of the cases, victims of sexual abuse reported knowing their abuser.

Many parents refuse to believe that sex abuse could occur in their family. There are two things that must be stressed if you want to protect your children:

1. The first is that ***child sexual abuse can occur in every family***. It doesn't matter what type of neighborhood one lives in or their social status or any other factor, it can and does occur.
2. The second thing is that ***child sexual abuse can be committed by anyone***. Parents must get their erroneous, stereotypical image of what a sex offender is out of our minds. Sex offenders look just like us – more than we want to acknowledge. But the sooner parents come to grips with these two **proven** facts, the safer are children will be from this devastating crime.



The Key for Parents:

As hard as it may be to hear, parents need to understand that sexual abuse can happen in ANY family; yours is not necessarily the exception.

Some Important Theories about Child Molesters



In theory, there are different types of sexual predators and child molesters. There is the sex offender that has a sexual preference for children. Another type is one who regresses, or behaves more childlike in times of personal stress. Some abusers choose children as prey because they are easier to exploit and manipulate. Predators are often unable to relate to people their own age and because of their level of emotional intelligence, feel more comfortable communicating with children.

Parent should be aware that “psychopaths” have many of the following traits: they are superficial and charming liars. They are easily able to manipulate people around them and they often lack any kind of empathic skills. They are typically, impulsive and show a significant lack of remorse. Psychopaths fail to follow through on commitments and more often than not have a juvenile record or other criminal histories.

Many child molesters engage in avoidance to ease or ignore painful feelings and situations in their own lives. They live through fantasy as a way to protect themselves and avoid the responsibility of solving their own problems. Sex offenders often isolate themselves, because of the secrecy required for their deviant sexual fantasies and behavior. This isolation and secrecy makes it impossible for child molesters to form healthy, intimate relationships with appropriate significant others.

According to the Four Preconditions Model (Finkelhor 1984), a preconditioned model used as a theoretical base to prevent child sexual abuse, there appear to be various identifiable thought processes present in sexual abusers prior to the actual offense taking place.

The first includes the motivation or desire to abuse. That person then must overcome internal barriers that may attempt to stop them from committing the offense. These kinds

of internal barriers include getting past any fear of being caught, or convincing themselves that the victim's feelings don't really matter. They must ignore any moral belief that they may have held that what they are about to do is wrong.

External barriers they have to get over can involve finding a victim that they can abuse, or finding an opportunity to abuse that individual. The victim's resistance then must be overcome in order for the abuse to take place, and this can involve behaviors such as bribery, or keeping the victim's secrets to themselves, and numerous other types of emotional manipulation.

There are many factors or "patterns" that are commonly prevalent with a sexual predator that may contribute to someone actually committing a sexual offense. There may be intimacy deficits where the abuser is not satisfied in their own personal relationships. Men may lack empathy for women and engage in a series of casual sexual relationships. Sex offenders who have never been married are often at a higher risk for recidivism.

They also tend to have interpersonal deficits that impact their thought processes. Sexual abusers tend to associate with other sexual offenders, which helps confirm and validates their abusive type of thinking. Many sexual abusers have poorly controlled expressions of their sexual urges. They may also use sexuality to cope with emotional issues. Child molesters identify with children emotionally. Moreover, when child molesters focus their sexual preferences exclusively on children, the less socially competent they tend to be.

Socially incompetent predators have reduced social and interpersonal skills, including a lack of assertiveness and poor self-esteem. Those with attachment disorders tend to have issues with trust, are often insecure, anxious, and angry a lot of the time and lack social skills. They also tend to have unfulfilled needs for power and control. They feel as if they may not be getting the attention and affection they think they "deserve," and this can cause deficits in their ability to manage their impulses including problems withholding an overwhelming need for instant gratification.

In summary, many sexual offenders abuse because they are trying to meet psychological needs for intimacy, autonomy and competency. Deficits in any of these areas combined with relevant thinking errors can lead to sexual abuse. Treatment for offenders focusing on these needs is critical in reducing the risk of them reoffending or their rate of recidivism. Child molesters may also seek to achieve particular emotional states, for example to **obtain power and control** which may be a feeble attempt to make themselves feel better or to enhance their own self-image.

There are some emotional red flags that signal when a sex offender may reoffend. They include a feeling of helplessness, hopelessness, isolation, anxiety and anger. Feeling inadequate and rejected can stimulate offenders to sexual abuse. Parents need to be very careful of people who exhibit apathy, or do not seem to care much about themselves or others. These people are often selfish, narcissistic and show an obvious lack of empathy. Also, be cautious of people who are impulsive and immature, as they tend to act without thinking about the potential consequences.

Listed below are some of the most common irrational thoughts that sex offenders engage in:

- All or nothing thinking. Things are viewed as black and white or all or nothing.
- Overgeneralization: One event is seen as never ending. Selective Abstraction: one picks out one negative detail and ruminates about it until everything is seen as negative.
- Rejecting the positive: People reject positive attitudes or events.
- Jumping to conclusions: Making an interpretation without first having all of the facts.
- Minimization: Something or an event is seen as a tiny incident as to have little importance or impact.
- Catastrophizing: This is where the “what ifs” come into play, and the worst case scenario is dwelt on.
- Emotional Reasoning: People think that their negative emotions reflect reality.

- “Should Statements”: Shoulds, musts, and could haves are statements that provide motivation or control and can result in anger, frustration and resentment.
- Labeling and Mislabeled: This involves over-generalizing with a label, such as “I am a rotten person” or mislabeling others, such as “he’s a loser.”
- Personalization: People think they caused a negative event but actually did not.

If you are thinking that you might be a criminal because you recognize yourself engaging in some of these types of thinking processes, stop worrying. We all have tendencies to think like this *occasionally*. Sex offenders, however, take their thoughts to a whole other level. They often deceive even themselves in order to commit an offense in the first place. The most common type of “thinking errors” heard in treatment are that sex offenders like to minimize, justify, blame their victims as well as actually take the “Victim stance” meaning the offender tries to portray themselves as the actual victim.



The Key for Parents:

Familiarize yourself with common behavior and thought processes of sex offenders. Half of the battle lies in knowing what the enemy looks like.

How to Recognize the Characteristics of Incest Offenders



The following is a list of behaviors often found in those who sexually abuse their relatives. You may recognize some of these traits in yourself or people you know, but that doesn't mean you or they are sex offenders. What parents need to do to protect their children is stay constantly vigilant and aware of these types of traits as a first line of defense.

Learn to be cautious and raise questions when you are feeling that you might be close to an offender. Trust your intuitions and check out the databases we have listed in this ebook. Watch for these traits:

- ❖ Low self esteem
- ❖ Poor coping skills
- ❖ Feel particularly inadequate with adults
- ❖ Plunging too quickly into relationships
- ❖ Difficulty trusting anyone
- ❖ Bad at resolving conflicts
- ❖ Overly opportunistic all of the time
- ❖ Often are otherwise law-abiding
- ❖ Rarely use force, often use subtle coercion
- ❖ May not have exclusive preference for children
- ❖ May see abuse as sexual experimentation (and talks about it)
- ❖ Has trouble developing intimate relationships and tends to stay away from them

The following presents potential thoughts, beliefs and behavior that may lead someone to sexually abuse. Keep in mind that the factors involved will vary and be unique to each offender. There are several common beliefs that may impact a person's thinking that can lead them to sexually abuse. There are rape myths that men may believe cause them to commit the act of rape.

For example, an offender may tell themselves or fantasize that women really like to be raped; that women who dress provocatively are asking for it and when they say no, they really mean yes. They are just playing hard to get and offenders believe that the victim actually deserves what they get.

Other myths or thinking errors that can impact one's sexual behavior include thinking that everyone is entitled to sex. Many men think they need sex more than women do, and that they have a higher sex drive. Child molesters also have similar attitudes such as thinking that children are mature enough to have sex and that they actually enjoy sex with adults. They may also think that children tease and flirt with adults because they want to have sex with them. In their delusional minds, if a child does not resist or protest, then they must like it and are somehow ok with it. Another common belief among some offenders is that children are so eager to have sex, that it is hard to fend them off.

There are some common behaviors predators engage in that can lead them to sexually abuse. People who frequent strip clubs, massage parlors or solicit prostitutes and those who use pornography **present a higher risk to offend**. As parents, why would we want these people around our home and family?

Those who engage in excessive masturbation have deviant sexual fantasies or desires show a preoccupation with sex crimes, sex, pornography or prostitutes, are risk factors that may lead to some people to commit sexual offenses. Substance abuse may also contribute to someone sexually abusing another person. Their distorted thinking is typically already present and when that is combined with the use of illicit substances, it significantly lowers inhibitions and impairs judgment which makes the abuse seem more acceptable to the offender.

Psychiatric problems also impact abusers. Many child molesters suffer from depression, anxiety disorders, and are often suicidal and extremely lonely. However, keep in mind that there are severe thinking errors and other factors leading to sexual abuse. Being

depressed alone does not mean someone is at risk to sexually offend. However, severe anger and aggressive behavior, especially anger toward women may. Other antisocial behavior such as recklessness, sensation seeking, substance abuse, criminal behavior and similar impulsive behavior do impact recidivism rates for sexual offenders because poor self-regulation is a common risk factor.



The Key for Parents:

Know what the characteristics of incest offenders are so that you can recognize their behaviors if they come into your immediate environment.

How Incest Offenders Manipulate Their Victims



The “grooming phase” in sexual abuse refers to the manipulation used to entice victims and keep them from reporting the abuse. Most often much planning goes into sexual offending although many sex offenders will adamantly deny planning, stating it was an impulsive act. Grooming involves many types of manipulation including trickery and bribes, peer pressure, coercion or threats.

Manipulation involves first gaining the trust of the victim. The offender may show special attention by giving gifts, and making the victim feel important. Sexual offenders may keep secrets for the child, and use the fact that they are “covering” for the child’s antisocial behavior as one of their grooming techniques to win the child over. Sexual offenders will desensitize the child to get the child acclimated to the abuse they can move forward with their plan to abuse. For example, tickling lead to tickling private areas, which leads to fondling, this could lead to penetration etc.

It’s comparable to foreplay. The abuser tries to make the victim feel like a willing participant and hopes the victim does not reject the abuse initially. The victim then feels guilty, like he or she should be blamed. Basically the abuser makes the victim feel responsible for the abuse. Psychopaths and sex offenders are good at projecting their shame and guilt onto victims. All parents must be aware of this subtle process and recognize the signs if it is happening to their child.



The Key for Parents:

Closely monitor your child’s relationships with other family members and always monitor your child’s reaction to being around those individuals. If your child is being molested, they will show distinct and recognizable behaviors.

Sex Offenders Who Live in Denial



There are various levels of denial that sex offenders and those close to them often believe. Sexual offenders have been known to deceive not only others, but themselves as well. There are many reasons that they may not want to admit to the abuse. They may want to avoid prison or losing their own family for example. They may feel ashamed and not want to admit to being a sexual offender. It may appear to others that they are lying, when in fact they may truly believe their own story.

Sex offenders often distort their own thinking to the point where they believe that they are justified in their deviant thoughts and actions, because it protects them from believing the truth about their offensive behavior. They deny committing the offense, or deny fantasizing and planning, or not admit responsibility for the offenses. They also deny internal guilt for the offense behavior and the level of difficulty involved in changing thoughts and behaviors.

There are also forms of denial sexual offenders may use to avoid being held accountable for their behavior which can include the following:

- 1) Denial of fact: “Nothing really happened.”
- 2) Denial of responsibility: “Something happened, but it wasn’t my idea.”
- 3) Denial of sexual intent: “Something happened and it was my idea, but it wasn’t sexual.”
- 4) Denial of wrongfulness: “Something happened and it was my idea, and it was sexual, but it wasn’t wrong.”
- 5) Denial of self determination: “Something happened and it was my idea, and it was sexual and it was wrong, but there were extenuating factors or circumstances.”

Another type of denial involves someone being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at

the time of their offense: “I was drunk and I don’t remember,” is a commonly heard excuse from sexual offenders. It is easier to live with oneself if they can blame their behavior on a substance and suppress the idea of the offense, rather than to actually acknowledge their heinous behavior.

Parents should listen for and pay close attention to some common thinking errors or excuses present in sexual offenders that can signal warning signs that they intend to offend if you have any suspicions about someone in your environment. For example, if an offender believes: that sex with children is not wrong, that previous incidences were non-sexual, that mitigating psychological factors were present for them to offend before, or they blame the victim and deny any abuse occurs..

- More examples of these types of common excuses used by sex offenders are listed below. The offender: says that the victim consented (ex: “she came on to me”)
- was deprived of conventional sex (This is common in husbands blaming their wives for not meeting their sexual needs, as a way to justify their sexual offense)
- was intoxicated on drugs or alcohol
- was only being affectionate
- thinks sex with children is not wrong (ex: “She liked it”)
- thinks the victim lied
- afraid of adult women
- claims that he was trying to help the victim (ex: teaching her about sex)
- acted out of anger (ex: “I was angry at my wife”)
- claims that someone wants to hurt him via alleged sexual abuse (ex: the cops are out to get me; an allegation from an estranged wife seeking primary custody of the children)
- claims financial stress led to the sexual abuse
- states a preference for children
- claims that he was punishing the victim
- claims the victim’s parents were lying

- relates a personal history of sexual and/or physical abuse

In 2003 reports estimated that anywhere from 22-82% of child molesters have related a history of child sexual abuse. However, many lie about it to use it as a means to evade responsibility for their offense behavior and to seek sympathy. At the same time a “rationalization list” is created. Some of the rationalizations used by child molesters include:

- the victim enjoyed it
- it wasn't wrong or the abuse won't cause any harm
- the offender was high or drunk
- she was flirting and teasing
- nobody will find out about the abuse
- there was no force or rejection so it's okay
- the victim was sleeping so it's okay
- the offender was providing sex education
- the victim won't remember since she was young
- the offender exerts curiosity about the victim's development the offender feels entitled and that the victim is there to serve his needs
- the victim is mature for her age and acts like an adult
- the victim is sexually active with others
- the offender uses his own sexual abuse as an excuse
- it is a game, a dare to see what the offender can get away with
- the offender seeks revenge on the victim's mother
- the offender may claim he is investigating her previous sexual abuse
- offenders may claim that they have no control over their actions
- it was an accidental touch
- the offender may minimize the abuse by stating that it was fondling not sex
- the offender may think the victim is not a blood relative
- the offender may use sexual abuse to punish and control the child

- the offender may claim it was an isolated incident
- the offender may claim that he is testing her to see if she is sexually active
- the offender may use religion to evade taking responsibility
- such as the devil is causing him to sin
- or stating one has been saved and does not need to work through these issues in treatment
- The offender may think he can reclaim lost potency with the victim or that he would be safe from sexually transmitted diseases with a very young partner or that someone else would probably do it so it might as well be the offender.

These rationalizations are some of the more common ones heard in interviews and interrogation rooms in police stations as well as during treatment of sex offenders. What is important for parents to recognize is when someone uses this type of language. View it as a red flag and implement necessary safeguards.



The Key for Parents:

*Always be mindful of language used in and around your family.
Listen for the “red flags” and make sure you take precautionary
measures when you recognize a potential problem.*

What About Female Sex Offenders?



Up until now we have focused primarily on male offenders mainly because the vast majority of abusers are male. But what about the female sex offenders?

There is not that much information out there relating to female offenders which makes it difficult to create a patterned profile for them. Current breaks down female offenders into three categories:

1. The first type usually molests children under age six, and they are usually their own children. These women tend to be sadistic and enjoy hurting their victims.
2. Then there are women who are coerced into molesting children and do so either to please the man they are with or to keep him. Many of these women become conditioned to enjoy abusing the child and may eventually do so alone.
3. And lastly, there is the teacher/lover who usually molests adolescents. They tend to be approximately 15 years older than their victims and often they deflect responsibility for their behaviors onto their victims. These are also the type that gets the most media attention nowadays.

What parents and the public need to understand about these women are that their actions are equally as destructive as male sex offenders. Adolescent boys often feel special and superior to their peers when manipulated by these women and do not think they have been abused. But studies later in life show similar affects of abuse as the victim's age.

Boys who have been sexually abused may exhibit denial just like female victims. They think no one will believe their story. They may not want the perpetrator to go to prison. Victims, just like offenders, don't want to accept that it happened and may deny it and suppress the information and the experience.



The Key for Parents:

It doesn't happen as often, but females can offend just as easily as males. We are more likely to suspect a male first before a female, so this type of crime may go unnoticed for a longer period of time. Our greatest asset is to trust our instincts about another person's unusual behavior.

What are Juvenile Sex Offenders?



Juveniles are estimated to account for approximately 20% of sexual assaults in the United States. They are responsible for 20% of sex crimes against peers and adults, and 30% for child sex abuse cases. Juvenile sex offenders often have been diagnosed with ADHD, depression, conduct disorder, anxiety disorders and impulse control disorders.

So just who are these juvenile offenders? There are many theories about typology of juvenile sex offenders and this gives you a summary:

1. First there are **Experimenter/Abusers** who are typically between the ages of 11 and 13. Some of the adolescents offend because they are curious and just “want to experiment” with their victims. These victims are usually between the ages of 2 and 6 and this type of abuse generally does not involve the use of force.
2. Next there is the child who has been under socialized and feels like a loner and often also feels insecure and inadequate. They seek intimacy, self-esteem and self identity and may use manipulation or trickery to engage their victims.
3. Then there are the older adolescents who use their social skills to manipulate and may in fact also be a child abuse victim themselves. They often show little remorse and tend to portray the offense as “consensual.” Their main motivation is to satisfy sexual needs with little regard to the victim.
4. The next type is the sexually aggressive offenders who are typically charming and social creatures who may have come from chaotic and abusive families. They are prone to the use of force or threats and seek to obtain power and control over their victim.
5. Sexual compulsives typically come from families that are rigid. Their offenses may not involve just touching a victim. These offenders are often compulsive and seek to alleviate anxiety or tension or they commit an offensive act just for the thrill of it.
6. The disturbed impulsive offender may have other problems such as psychiatric

disorders, substance abuse problems, and/or learning disorders. These juvenile offenders are to be taken very seriously. Their offenses are impulsive with often unclear motivations.

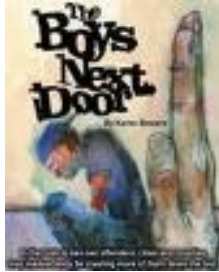
7. The group-influenced offender is one who caves into peer pressure and their own curiosity and may attempt to obtain status and acceptance from their peers by committing an act of sexual abuse.
8. And lastly, there is the Abuse-Reactive offender who engages in sexual offenses as a reaction to their own sexual abuse.



The Key for Parents:

Parents need to be careful about leaving their children around older children including siblings and their friends. Play is best when age appropriate.

Adolescent Sexual Offenders and Risk for Re-offense



There are some risk factors that parents must be mindful of when they have a known offender in their environment and they need to evaluate the level of risk for adolescent sexual offenders who might reoffend:

- Prior legally or unreported sexual offenses
- Having more than one victim
- Male child victim who is under age ten and at least four years younger than the perpetrator
- Multiple offenses
- Aggression and physical force used in the offense
- High degree of planning, rather than impulsive acts
- High sex drive or preoccupations with sexual matters
- Sexual abuse history with perpetrator, risk is higher if force is used or if there was penetration
- Changes in caregivers
- Family instability (Things to watch out for : large family size, frequent moves, unemployment, divorce, death, new family members, parent frequently changing partners, poor boundaries, serious illness, psychiatric problems, substance abuse, violence and criminal behavior)
- Pervasive anger
- Problems in school: truancy, fighting etc
- History of Conduct Disorder before age 10 (includes behavioral problems, failure to obey rules, violates basic rights of theirs, aggressive behavior at school, home or in the community, vandalism, destruction of property, malicious mischief, carrying a weapon, theft, reckless driving, fire-setting, substance abuse, running away, hurting insects or animals etc)
- Being charged or arrested for any type of crime before age 16
- Physical abuse history in the perpetrator

- Exposure to violence in the family
- Lack of quality friendships, social withdrawal
- Lack of good support system



The Key for Parents:

If you know an individual has sexually offended in the past, there is absolutely no reason to leave your children alone with them. Always supervise any interaction.

Sexual Behavior during Pre-adolescence, What Parents Should Look Out For



Known factors that parents should watch for in the lives of pre-adolescent who might become sexual offenders or re-offenders include: broken families, domestic violence, substance abuse, and multi-generational abuse, parental histories of abuse, poverty, physical abuse, and denial of responsibilities by family members.

There are other behaviors or boundary violations that can lead to a child or adolescent sexually abusing someone. Some of those behaviors include exposing a child to family sexuality, nudity and sexual behavior in the media, domestic violence, physical abuse and neglect. Aggressive offenders often come from backgrounds that include repeated exposure to physical violence, sexualized adult behavior and sexual abuse with penetration.

Psychiatric disorders often found in these children include conduct disorders and ADHD. They also tend to have poor social skills, poor problem-solving skills and poor coping skills. A lot of them have lower IQs and have problems behaving appropriately in school.

Many preadolescents engage in sexual play, because they are curious. Normal experimentation involves consensual behavior between same age children and usually occurs before age 13. If the play involves coercion or lack of consent, the behavior is then becomes abusive. When abuse occurs, there are typically themes of secrecy, dominance, threat or force that also differentiates normal play from sexual abuse. Child perpetrators often link anger, aggression, fear, and loneliness with sex.



The Key for Parents:

Be vigilant in the lives of pre-adolescent children. If you see these kinds of behaviors in your own children, get them help right away.

How Parents can Differentiate Normal Sexual Behavior from Abnormal



As we have seen so far, there are multiple and diverse motives for people who engage in inappropriate sexual behavior. In addition, many juveniles just want to explore their sexuality and are simply curious. They often engage in behavior that they learn from watching others in their immediate environment.

Adolescents often seek to feel pleasure, release sexual urges, to combat boredom or to relieve stress. They may also seek friendship, intimacy or love via their sexuality. Some young people are engaging in sex for procreation at this early stage in their lives. People may also engage in sexual activity to increase self-esteem or their self-image and to feel in control. Adolescent often tell dirty jokes and use obscene language – behavior that is typically normal.

They may also be interested in pornography and begin to masturbate in private. Adolescents engage in sexual activity, such as kissing, fondling, and mutual masturbation and sexual intercourse and these behaviors are for the most part considered normal experimentation. However, parents should be concerned when juveniles become **overly preoccupied** with sexual interests, such as pornography or promiscuity.

It is normal for children to be curious and exhibit behaviors such as indicated above, however, when there is penetration or oral to genital contact, the **motive** then becomes pleasure rather than curiosity and they have entered into a different sexual territory. If a child or adolescent uses force, trickery bribery, threats or other forms of intimidation, they have entered the area of sexual abuse.

Other areas of concern for parents include sexually aggressive behavior, embarrassing other people with sexual themes, or violating other people's boundaries on a regular basis. Pulling up skirts or pulling pants down should require an appropriate talking to from

an adult. Any observed behaviors such as peeping, exposure, frontage (rubbing up against someone's backside), or mooning others requires immediate intervention from an adult.

Some of these behaviors may seem harmless at first, however if no action is taken to correct these problems, they often turn into more serious problems down the road. It's always better for a parent to nip a problem in the bud rather than have to deal with therapy years later.

More types of behavior that require immediate intervention include when a juvenile compulsively masturbates, feels superior when degrading other people sexually, attempts to expose someone's genitals to others, and exhibits excessive preoccupation with sexually aggressive pornography. These are all serious warning signs that should not be ignored!

When an older juvenile talks about sex to younger children, touches another child's genitals without consent and makes sexual threats, you have a potential sex offender in your presence. Behaviors that are actually **illegal** include making obscene phone calls, peeping, exposure of genitals, frontage, sexual harassment, sexual contact with a peer who is significantly younger, forced sexual contact or penetration against a person or animal and genital injury to others (see the list of registrable offenses are the back of this ebook).



The Key for Parents:

If you know the difference between normal and abnormal sexual behavior, you can stop it before it gets out of hand. Most kids just need to know the appropriate boundaries.

What to do When Sexual Abuse Involves a Child



Child sexual abuse is defined as an adult or juvenile committing an act of sexual touching, fondling, oral, genital or oral to genital contact, or penetration with a child.

An adult, who exposes his or her genitals in the presence of a minor, has committed sexual abuse. Watching or “peeping” at a child while they dress, is a form of sexual abuse. Talking explicitly about sex in front of a child is another form of abuse, depending on the context and type of language used and for what purpose. Any type of sexual activity between an adult and person under age 18 is child abuse, even if there was “supposed” consent or assent.

Children cannot consent to sex. They can’t consent, because they can not fully appreciate and understand the ramifications or consequences of their choices. Many people minimize or ignore certain types of sexual abuse, such as fondling or kissing. To the victim, it is all the same, whether it is penetration or fondling. These victims feel violated, manipulated and betrayed.



The Key for Parents:

*Parents need to know that children **CANNOT** consent to sex in any way. Abuse is abuse and the perpetrator should be treated accordingly.*

The Psychological and Emotional Effects of Sexual Abuse on Child Victims



There is no question that sexual abuse is devastating for children. In the past, the victims and often their mothers have been blamed for the abuse. Believe it or not, people still often minimize abuse because they don't want to deal with it. Women are also blamed for failure to protect their children, while accused husbands mostly never get charged for sexual abuse.

Society often believes first that women are manipulated by their paramours; however, failure to protect is particularly valid when allegations are made and the woman stays with the offender at the expense of the child. Children of sexual abuse become sexualized before they are mature enough to appreciate these feelings. They also experience social shame for participating in the sexual acts. They feel betrayed by the abuser that they once trusted. This betrayal is one facet that causes the most harm to abuse victims. Children also feel betrayed by those who failed to protect them.

Child victims of abuse tend to feel powerless, because the adult successfully asserted their power over them. As previously mentioned, sexual abusers go through a period of manipulating and grooming their victim(s). The offender gets the victim to trust and may use bribery or other trickery to get the victim to participate. Victims often feel guilty then and somehow responsible, confused, fearful, angry, shameful, damaged, and depressed. Some will contemplate suicide after being abused.

Victims may also have physical problems resulting from the abuse, and they often appear or act more mature than they actually are. They can act out behaviorally and exhibit irritable behaviors such as easily snapping at others. They may be so depressed that they use self-mutilation to numb their emotional pain. Other effects of sexual abuse on children include aggressive behavior, social withdrawal substance abuse, nightmares, self-blame, and feeling alienated and confused. They may also develop eating disorders; have higher

chances of becoming pregnant or of impregnating someone.

The long-term impact of sexual abuse can include victims feeling worthless, helpless, unlovable and damaged. They may struggle with acceptance and loving themselves, sometimes for a lifetime if they are not helped along the way. They typically have problems in their interpersonal relationships and may seek unhealthy partners. They may also have problems with authority and hold onto basic trust issues. Often victims of child abuse have long-standing problems with intimacy. They can become promiscuous as a result and think all relationships as being sexual in nature. They may use sex manipulatively in order to gain some sense of control. Victims often have low self-esteem and abuse drugs and alcohol as a result.

Child victims of abuse are known to seek dominant people out to be in relationship with, or they may become the aggressor and abuse others. Anger and rage arises and sexual identity issues may also surface. Sooner or later, many abuse victims hide the abuse to protect the perpetrator out of fear or retribution, or because they feel guilty for some how participating in the abuse. Some children act provocatively and may act as though they are seeking abuse because attention leads to abuse. Those who are attention-seeking minded may tolerate the abuse, because they are so desperate for any kind of love, affection and attention.

Abuse victims often disassociate, or turn off their feelings, and try to believe the lies and manipulations of their abuser. Most victims misbehave as a cry for help for someone to notice the abuse and protect them. Sexual abuse victims do not learn healthy boundaries. They have difficulty asserting themselves as well as saying when they do not want to do something (drawing appropriate boundaries) particularly in matters relating to sex. They often enter abusive relationships as adults due to some unconscious feeling that they “deserve it.” It is easier for abusers to be in relationships with child victims of abuse because they are easier to manipulate.

Emotional Abuse

The impact of sexual abuse varies and should be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Abuse that has lasted for a long time and happened often will likely have more of a negative effect on victims. Also the type of abuse, whether it be fondling or penetration will also have a more profound impact. However, keep in mind that all forms of child sexual abuse are devastating.

If violence or force was used, there may be more of a long-term impact. Other issues include the age of the victim and the relationship between the victim and abuser. The more close and dependent the victim to abuser, the more betrayed and helpless the victim feels. How the reporting of the abuse is handled by authorities also impacts the victim.



The Key for Parents:

It is important for children to know that they are not to blame if they are the victim of sexual abuse. Often times, a therapist (someone not part of the family) can be a tremendous help by just listening.

Signs of Sexual Abuse in Your Children



Signs of Sexual Abuse in Your Children

A parent may suspect child abuse, but the child may react to some other traumatic or disturbing event. Here are some of the ways you can differentiate what your child is trying to tell you:

- Young children (ages 6-11), usually do not masturbate. Masturbating too often to the point of irritation or masturbating in public is a warning sign that needs immediate investigation, and at the very least, education about appropriate ways to self-soothe in private.
- There may be problems sleeping, nightmares, night terrors or being fearful of sleeping alone. The child may wet or soil the bed, well beyond the appropriate age for that behavior.
- They may be fearful of the offender in their presence, and become clingy to the non-abusive parent.
- A child who begins to call a parent by his or her first name may have been sexually violated, or at least could benefit from family counseling to determine other reasons for such extreme behavior.
- Many abused youth run away from home, and may avoid the home and family activities as much as possible.
- Sexually abused youth may act out by committing crimes or engaging in criminal mischief. (For a review of these behaviors, review the section above on risk assessment for juvenile offenders. Page#)

Other signs of sexual abuse include:

- Changes in weight and eating behavior, as well as unexplained fears and anxieties.
- The victim may ask personal questions about their parent's marriage and may be protective of other siblings. Many child molesters gain cooperation from victim's by threatening to abuse their siblings.
- More obvious signs include blood-stained clothing, rashes, abrasions, frequent sore throats and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Some common STDs include gonorrhea, syphilis, Chlamydia, genital warts, HIV and herpes.
- Some victims may exhibit obsessive-compulsive behaviors regarding cleanliness.
- They may regress via bedwetting or thumb-sucking.
- Some victims gain weight, in an unconscious attempt to protect themselves from being sexually abused.

Remember, these lists are not exhaustive, and there may be other signs or instincts that may alert you that a child has been abused. A parent has to always be aware and watch for signs and report any suspected abuse to the proper social authorities. The job of the child protection agencies is to investigate and determine if any abuse really occurred. Parents should know that calls to abuse hotlines are anonymous, and teachers, mental health and other professional are required **by law** to report suspected abuse as well as any abuse that is directly disclosed to them.

Other physical signs of potential abuse include:

Pain or itching in genital areas	Problems walking or sitting
Frequent urinary tract infections	Excessive masturbation
Vaginal discharge	Painful urination
Bruises or bleeding in genital areas	Presence of semen

Bedwetting or soiling	Pregnancy in females
Foreign objects lodged in the genitals	Drastic changes in behavior
Withdrawal behavior	Impaired attention and concentration
Poor peer relationships develop	Declining grades
Sudden secrecy	Over compliance
Running away	Truancy and delinquent behavior
Taking on the role of being a parent	Displaying a lack of trust
Regressive behavior	Become fearful of taking baths
False maturity	Eating more or eating less
Aggressive behavior not seen before	Knowledge about sexual behavior that is too advanced for someone their age
Promiscuity	Sexual abuse of other children
Frequent fantasizing or crying	Hypersensitivity
Irritability	Mood swings
Guilt, depression, fear	Hyperactivity
Emotional numbing	Irritability
Depression and fear	Shame and anxiety
Fearful of a particular person	Suicidal ideation
Dissociation	Spacing out frequently



The Key for Parents:

If you see any of these signs in children, consult a professional immediately. Contact the American Psychiatric Association at www.psych.org or the American Psychological Association at www.apa.org for a therapist in your area.

Child Victim Statistics



Statistics report that between 9-16% of boys in the United States are molested every year. For girls, the percentage is much higher, and age 8 is when they are most frequently begun to be molested. Young children with behavior problems are estimated to be sexual abuse victims in between 49% to 80% of cases.

In extra familial offenders, same-sex child molesters have higher risk for re-offense than opposite-sex child molesters; however these results are not consistent. Children are easy targets and they want to please the adults in their lives. They trust adults and are taught to obey them making it more difficult for them to say no to an abuser.

Children expect adults to know right from wrong, and when they do the wrong thing, it confuses children -- and they lose trust and faith in adults, and their worldview changes for the worse. Children are completely dependent on adults for their physical and emotional needs which makes this type of crime so heinous.

Children who are vulnerable to abuse are often insecure, neglected, unhappy, crave adult attention/approval, are lonely, have been previous victims, are unsupported by the family, are learning disabled, are unsupervised, have been exposed to multiple non-family caretakers, are kids using drugs and or alcohol, or are foster children.

Male child molesters that molest males are more dangerous and are more likely to re-offend. Male victims may exhibit the symptoms that females do, but they may also question their sexual orientation more often than female victims. They may not reveal abuse for fear of being stigmatized or called a homosexual.



The Key for Parents:

Clearly understand that the chances for molestation are high and a parent must remain aware and vigilant in protecting their children.

Megan's Law



Megan's Law is designed to provide information and notification to communities when potentially dangerous sex offenders move into your neighborhood. The nature of the notification varies significantly from state to state, and even sometimes from community to community within a state. However, as a result of this system, every state now attempts to keep track of the residence of all sex offenders and they also attempt to provide this information to the public. (See list of sex offender databases in references)

What information is available under Megan's Law? The amount of information available to the public can be significantly different depending upon where you live. There are now several states that put databases online, where residents can search for sex offenders over the Internet by name and zip code. These databases typically produce information about the offender's last known address and basic information about the crimes they committed. In some cases, results will even include photographs of the offenders.

At the other extreme, the members of the public have to go to the local police station and review information available. The amount of information that is available to the public changes greatly from state to state. Some states even require sex offenders to place signs in the windows of their homes. Some states provide notification to schools and neighbors, based upon projections of a sex 'offender's potential to be dangerous. Some states do little but make the state sex offender registry available to the public.

Who was Megan? Megan was seven-year-old Megan Kanka. She was kidnapped, sexually assaulted, and murdered by a man who had two prior convictions for sexual offenses. The murderer had moved in across the street from Megan's family, who were unaware of this man's history.

Does Megan's Law really work and how does it help parents? There have been a number

of concerns raised about sex offender registration and notification laws. Most people have concluded that the benefits to the public greatly outweigh any downside to the law. Sex offenders have raised a number of challenges to the nation's various sex offender registration and notification laws without success.

While the courts do require some level of respect for the rights of a convicted sex offender, the importance of protecting the safety of the public far outweighs their right to privacy. The most commonly raised concern about Megan's Laws relate to fears of vigilantism, when neighbors learn of a sex offender's presence and decide to either drive him out of the neighborhood or cause him physical harm. These fears are not without basis, but to date incidents of vigilantism are not common.

Another concern relates to the fact that Megan's Laws seem to discourage sex offenders from complying with registration laws. While it is typically a felony offense for a sex offender to fail to register his residence as required by law, at least 20% (and sometimes a much higher percentage) of convicted sex offenders do not comply with the registration requirement. By way of comparison, the United Kingdom in 2001, which had no similar law, reported 97% compliance with sex offender registration laws.

A significant practical concern is that children are typically at greatest risk from relative and from friends of their families – not from strangers. While notification laws and access to sex offender databases may give parents a sense of security, they may distract parents from paying attention to people who pose a potentially greater risk than the offenders on state registries.

Finally, particularly with regard to registries, there is concern that some people who do not pose any danger to the public are included in the registries. For example, some states require registration for "statutory rape" offenses, even where the offender is close in age to the victim, and the sexual activity was consensual.

While society has the right to protect children and teenagers from sexual predation

through “statutory rape” laws, and there is no significant controversy over requiring offenders to register when the victim is significantly younger, there is a legitimate question as to whether every high school student who is convicted of a statutory offense with a younger peer should be named for decades on a public sex offender registry.



The Key for Parents:

Go to www.apscreen.com/sexoffenders.htm for a list of governmental, private and state sex offender databases that you can see for FREE.

Can Online Sex Offender Databases Be Trusted?



We have laws in place and we have used the latest technology to post information about sex offenders in the form of online sex offender databases. The question then becomes, “Can I trust the information provided?” The general idea of posting this information is invaluable and most of the time the information is fairly accurate. The problem is that most of these people are so transient it becomes a logistical nightmare to keep track of their every move.

Most of these people have problems maintaining steady employment and this results in frequent evictions and frequent moving by sex offenders from place to place. Some sex offenders will report their moves to local law enforcement as they are required to do by law. However, the majority will not report the move until they are required to do their scheduled reporting with either their probation/parole officer or if they are no longer on probation or parole, the local law enforcement agency.

So, is the information really accurate? It is only as accurate as the sex offender wants it to be. Law enforcement agencies are supposed to make periodic checks to make sure that sex offenders are living where they say they are living.

Additionally, law enforcement agencies are supposed to make periodic checks at places of employment listed by the sex offenders. The truth of the matter is that law enforcement agencies rarely have the time and resources to make the checks as they should be made. In the end, sex offender databases are certainly good to have but the public needs to keep in mind that the information is probably not 100% accurate or up-to-date.

Laws are also in place now in at least half a dozen states, including California, Georgia and Iowa that bar sex offenders from living in close proximity to schools and parks.



The Key for Parents:

While it's a good idea for parents to regularly check sex offender databases in their area, they should not completely trust the information to be 100% accurate and allow that to give them a false sense of security. Always be aware and trust your intuition.

A List of Registrable Sex Offenses



All section references below are to the California Penal Code unless otherwise indicated:

207	Kidnapping committed with intent to violate sections 261, 286, 288, 288a, or 289.
207(b)	Kidnapping, victim under <u>14</u> with the intent to violate any 288 sections.
208(d)	(Prior Code): Kidnapping victim under <u>14</u> with the intent to violate sections 261, 286, 288, 288a, or 289...
209	Kidnapping for ransom committed with intent to violate sections 261, 286, 288, 288a, or 289.
209(b)(1)	Kidnapping for ransom committed with intent to violate sections 261, 286, 288, 288a, or 289.
220	Assault to commit rape, sodomy, or oral copulation or to violate sections 264.1, 288 or 289.
220/261	Assault to commit rape.
220/261(2)	Assault to commit rape by force or fear.
220/664.1	Assault to rape in concert with force/violence.
243.4	Sexual battery.
243.4(a)	Sexual battery.
243.4(b)	Sexual battery on medically institutionalized person.
243.4(c)	(Prior Code) Sexual battery involving restrained person.
243.4(c)	Sexual battery victim unaware-fraudulent misrepresentation.

243.4(d)	Sexual battery involving restrained person.
243.4(d)(1)	(Prior Code) Touch person intimately against will for sexual arousal/etc.
243.4(e)(1)	Touch person intimately against will for sexual arousal/etc.
261	Rape: not specified.
261(1)	Rape: victim incapable of consent.
261(2)	(Prior Code) Rape by force or fear.
261(2)/264.1	Rape in concert by force.
261(3)	Rape of drugged victim.
261(4)	Rape: victim unconscious of the nature of the act.
261(6)	Rape by threat of retaliation.
261(a)(1)	Rape: Victim incapable of giving consent.
261(a)(2)	Rape by force/fear etc.
261(a)(3)	Rape of drugged victim.
261(a)(4)	(Prior Code) Rape: Victim unconscious of the nature of the act.
261(a)(4)(A)	Rape: Victim was unconscious or asleep.
261(a)(4)(B)	Rape: Victim was unconscious and not aware of the act.
261(a)(4)(C)	Rape: Victim not aware due to perpetrators fraud.
261(a)(4)(D)	Rape: Victim not aware - fraudulent misrepresentation.
261(a)(6)	Rape by threat of retaliation.
261.2	(Prior Code) Rape by force or fear.-
261.2/261.3	(Prior Code) Rape by force or threat.
261.3	(Prior Code) Rape by force or victim intoxicated.

261.4	(Prior Code) Rape by threat or rape of drugged victim.
262(a)(1)	Rape Spouse by force or fear.
264.1	Rape/etc. in concert with force/violence.
266	Entice minor female for prostitution/etc.
266c	Induce intercourse/sex acts by false representation with intent to create fear.
266h(b)	Pimping: Prostitute under 16 years of age.
266i(b)	Pandering: Pandering Prostitute under <u>16</u> years of age.
266j	Procurement of person under <u>16</u> for lewd and lascivious acts.
267	Abduct minor for prostitution.
269	Aggravated sexual assault/child under <u>14</u> or <u>10</u> years.
269(a)	Aggravated sexual assault child under <u>14</u> and <u>10</u> years younger.
269(a)(1)	Aggravated sexual assault child under <u>14</u> to violate 261(a)(2).
269(a)(2)	Aggravated sexual assault child under <u>14</u> to violate 264.1.
269(a)(3)	Aggravated sexual assault child under <u>14</u> to violate 286 by force or fear.
269(a)(4)	Aggravated sexual assault child under <u>14</u> to violate 288a by force or fear.
269(a)(5)	Aggravated sexual assault child under <u>14</u> to violate 289(a) by force or fear.
272	Contribute to the delinquency of a minor (lewd or lascivious).
285	Incest.
286	Sodomy.
286(a)	Sodomy; General Category.
286(b)(1)	Sodomy with person under <u>18</u> years.
286(b)(2)	Sodomy with person under <u>16</u> years.

286(c)	(Prior Code) Sodomy with person under <u>14</u> years or with force.
286(c)(1)	Sodomy with person under <u>14</u> years.
286(c)(2)	Sodomy with force or violence.
286(c)(3)	Sodomy with threat of retaliation.
286(d)	Sodomy in concert with force.
286(e)	Sodomy while confined in prison or jail.
286(f)	Sodomy: victim unconscious of the nature of the act.
286(g)	Sodomy: victim incapable of giving consent.
286(h)	Sodomy: Without consent victim and defendant in mental facility.
286(i)	Sodomy without consent: Victim intoxicated.
286(j)	Sodomy without consent: believe person is spouse.
286(k)	Sodomy by threat of authority to arrest/deport.
288	Crimes against children; lewd or lascivious.
288(a)	Lewd or lascivious acts with child under <u>14</u> years.
288(b)	(Prior Code) Lewd or lascivious acts with a child under <u>14</u> years with force.
288(b)(1)	Lewd or lascivious acts with child under <u>14</u> years with force.
288(b)(2)	Caretaker commits sexual act on dependent adult with force.
288(c)	(Prior Code) Lewd or lascivious acts with child 14 or 15 years old.
288(c)(1)	Lewd or lascivious acts with child <u>14</u> or <u>15</u> years old.
288(c)(2)	Caretaker commits lewd or lascivious acts on dependent adult.
288a	Oral copulation.
288a(a)	Oral copulation.

288a(b)(1)	Oral copulation with person under <u>18</u> years.
288a(b)(2)	Oral copulation with person under <u>16</u> years.
288a(c)	(Prior Code) Oral copulation with person under 14 or by force.
288a(c)(1)	Oral copulation with person under <u>14</u> .
288a(c)(2)	Oral copulation with force or violence.
288a(c)(3)	Oral copulation threat of retaliation.
288a(d)	Oral copulation in concert with force or fear.
288a(d)(1)	(Prior Code) Oral copulation in concert with force or fear.
288a(d)(2)	(Prior Code) Oral copulation in concert by threat of retaliation.
288a(d)(3)	(Prior Code) Oral copulation in concert: victim incapable of consent.
288a(e)	Oral copulation while confined in prison or jail.
288a(f)	Oral copulation: Victim unconscious of the nature of the act.
288a(f)(1)	Oral copulation: Victim was unconscious or asleep.
288a(f)(2)	Oral copulation: Victim was unconscious and not aware of act.
288a(f)(3)	Oral copulation: Victim not aware due to perpetrator's fraud.
288a(f)(4)	Oral copulation: Victim not aware - fraudulent misrepresentation.
288a(g)	Oral copulation: Victim incapable of giving consent.
288a(h)	Oral copulation: Victim and defendant in state hospital.
288a(i)	Oral copulation: Victim intoxicated.
288a(j)	Oral copulation: Believe person is a spouse.
288a(k)	Oral copulation by threat of authority to arrest or deport.
288b	(Prior Code): Oral copulation in concert with force.

288.2	Harmful matter - special circumstance (<i>felony only</i>).
288.2(a)	Harmful Matter: Seduction of minor via phone
288.2(b)	Harmful Matter: Seduction of minor via mail/internet.
288.5	(Prior Code) Continuous sexual abuse of a child.
288.5(a)	Continuous sexual abuse of child.
289	(Prior Code): Sexual penetration with foreign object.
289(a)	(Prior Code) Sexual penetration by foreign object.
289(a)(1)	Sexual penetration by foreign object with force.
289(a)(2)	Sexual penetration by foreign object with threat of retaliation.
289(b)	Sexual penetration with foreign object. Victim incapable of consent.
289(c)	Sexual penetration with foreign object. No consent: Victim and defendant in state hospital.
289(d)	Sexual penetration: Foreign object. Victim unaware of nature of act.
289(d)(1)	Sexual penetration: Foreign object. Victim unconscious or asleep.
289(d)(2)	Sexual penetration: Foreign object. Victim unaware.
289(d)(3)	Sexual penetration: Foreign object. Victim unaware of perpetrator's fraud.
289(d)(4)	Sexual penetration: Victim not aware - fraudulent misrepresentation.
289(e)	Sexual penetration with foreign object. Victim drugged.
289(f)	Sexual penetration with foreign object. Victim believes it is spouse.
289(g)	Sexual penetration with foreign object: Authority threat arrest.
289(h)	Sexual penetration with foreign object: Victim under <u>18</u> .
289(i)	Sexual penetration with foreign object: Victim under <u>16</u> .

289(j)	Sexual penetration with foreign object: Victim under <u>14</u> .
290	Sex offender Registration Statute.
311.1	(Prior Code) Indecent exposure.
311.1(a)	Send/sell etc. obscene matter depicting minor.
311.10	(Prior Code) Advertise obscene matter depicting minor.
311.10(a)	Advertise obscene matter depicting minor.
311.11	(Prior Code) Possess obscene matter, child under <u>14</u> years.
311.11(a)	Possess obscene matter of minor in sexual act.
311.11(b)	Possess obscene matter of minor in sexual act with a prior conviction.
311.2(b)	Distribute obscene material depicting minor for commercial consideration.
311.2(c)	Distribute obscene material depicting minor (misdemeanor).
311.2(d)	Distribute obscene matter of minor to minor.
311.3	(Prior Code) Sexual exploitation of a child.
311.3(a)	Depict sexual conduct of minor.
311.3(b)	Sexual exploitation depicting minor in sex act.
311.3(b)(1)	Sexual exploitation: sexual intercourse.
311.3(b)(2)	Sexual exploitation: penetration by foreign object.
311.3(b)(3)	Sexual exploitation: masturbation.
311.3(b)(4)	Sexual exploitation: sadomasochistic abuse.
311.3(b)(5)	Sexual exploitation: exhibition of genitals.
311.3(b)(6)	Sexual exploitation: defecation/urination for viewer stimulation.
311.3(d)	Prior conviction: punishment.

311.4	(Prior Code) Employment or use of minor to perform prohibited acts.
311.4(a)	Employment or use of minor to perform prohibited acts.
311.4(b)	Employment or use of minor to perform prohibited acts for commercial purposes.
311.4(c)	Employment or use of minor for obscene matter.
314.1	Indecent exposure.
314.2	Assist act of indecent exposure.
314.10	Indecent exposure.
646.9	Stalking (felony) pursuant to 290 (a)(2)(E) only.
647a	(Prior Code) Annoy or molest children.
647a(1)	(Prior Code) Annoy or Molest Children.
647.6	Annoy or molest child under <u>18</u> .
647.6(a)	Annoy or molest Children
647.6(b)	Annoy or molest children/illegal entry
647.6(c)(1)	Annoy or molest children with prior
647.6(c)(2)	Annoy or molest children specific prior conviction
653f(c)	Soliciting commission of 264.1, 288, or 289 by force or violence.
702 WIC	(Prior Code) Contribute to the delinquency of minor. (Lewd or lascivious finding)
5512 WIC	(Prior Code) Mentally disordered sex offender (MDSO) commitment to 90 days.
6316 WIC	Commitment (90 days) as an MDSO (prior to 1982).

A List of Registrable Juvenile Sex Offenses

All section references below are to the California Penal Code unless otherwise indicated.

207	Kidnapping committed with intent to violate sections 261, 286, 288, 288a, or 289.
207(b)	Kidnapping, victim under 14 with the intent to violate any 288 sections.
208(d)	(Prior Code): Kidnapping victim under <u>14</u> with the intent to violate sections 261, 286, 288, 288a, or 289.
209	Kidnapping for ransom committed with intent to violate sections 261, 286, 288, 288a, or 289.
209(b)(1)	Kidnapping for ransom committed with intent to violate sections 261, 286, 288, 288a, or 289.
220	Assault to commit rape, sodomy, or oral copulation or to violate sections 264.1, 288 or 289.
220/261	Assault to commit rape.
220/261(2)	Assault to commit rape by force or fear.
220/664.1	Assault to rape in concert with force/violence.
261	Rape: Not specified
261.1	(Prior Code) Rape: Victim incapable of giving consent
261(a)(1)	Rape: Victim incapable of giving consent.
261(a)(2)	Rape by force/fear/etc.
261(a)(3)	Rape of drugged victim.
261(a)(4)	(Prior Code) Rape: Victim unconscious of the nature of the act.
261(a)(4)(A)	Rape: Victim was unconscious or asleep.
261(a)(4)(B)	Rape: Victim was unconscious and not aware of the act.

261(a)(4)(C)	Rape: Victim not aware due to perpetrators fraud.
261(a)(4)(D)	Rape: Victim not aware - fraudulent misrepresentation.
261(a)(6)	Rape by threat of retaliation.
261(a)(6)	Rape by threat of retaliation.
261.2	(Prior Code) Rape by force or fear.
261.2/261.3	(Prior Code) Rape by force or threat.
261.3	(Prior Code) Rape by force or victim intoxication.
261.4	(Prior Code) Rape by threat or rape of drugged victim.
264.1	Rape/etc. in concert with force/violence.
266c	Induce intercourse/sex acts by false representation with intent to create fear.
267	Abduct minor for prostitution.
286(b)(1)	Sodomy with person under <u>18</u> years.
286(c)	(Prior Code) Sodomy with person under <u>14</u> years or with force.
286(c)(1)	Sodomy with person under <u>14</u> years.
286(c)(2)	Sodomy with force or violence.
286(c)(3)	Sodomy with threat of retaliation.
286(d)	Sodomy in concert with force.
288	Crimes against children; lewd or lascivious.
288(a)	Lewd or lascivious acts with child under <u>14</u> years.
288(b)	(Prior Code) Lewd or lascivious acts with a child under <u>14</u> years with force.
288(b)(1)	Lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14 years with force.
288(b)(2)	Caretaker commits sexual act on dependant adult with force.

288(c)	(Prior Code) Lewd or lascivious acts with child <u>14</u> or <u>15</u> years old.
288(c)(1)	Lewd or lascivious acts with child <u>14</u> or <u>15</u> years old.
288(c)(2)	Caretaker commits lewd or lascivious acts on dependent adult.
288a(b)(1)	Oral copulation with person under <u>18</u> years.
288a(c)	(Prior Code) Oral copulation with person under <u>14</u> or by force.
288a(c)(1)	Oral copulation with person under <u>14</u> .
288a(c)(2)	Oral copulation with force or violence.
288a(c)(3)	Oral copulation in concert with force/etc.
288a(d)	Oral copulation in concert with force or fear.
288a(d)(1)	(Prior Code) Oral copulation in concert with force or fear.
288a(d)(2)	(Prior Code) Oral copulation in concert by threat of retaliation.
288a(d)(3)	(Prior Code) Oral copulation in concert: victim incapable of consent.
288.5	(Prior Code) Continuous sexual abuse of a child.
288.5(a)	Continuous sexual abuse of child.
289(a)	(Prior Code) Sexual penetration by foreign object.
289(a)(1)	Sexual penetration by foreign object with force.
289(a)(2)	Sexual penetration by foreign object with threat of retaliation.
647a	(Prior Code) Annoy or molest children.
647.6	Annoy or molest children under <u>18</u> .
647.6(a)	Annoy or molest children under <u>18</u> .
647.6(e)(1)	Annoy or molest children under <u>18</u> .
647.6(c)(2)	Annoy or molest children under <u>18</u> .



The Key for Parents:

This list represents the majority of offenses in which a conviction will result in the offender being labeled a sex offender for the rest of their life. Parents should be aware of the extent of this type of crime.

Conclusion

Our children are the most precious people in this world to those of use who have them. We try to raise them in this world of uncertainty and perilous time. We try to provide for them the very best that we, as parents possibly can. And, we try to protect them and keep them safe. That is our job, which is our responsibility. That is what we, as parents, have a natural instinct to do. It is our hope that this ebook will provide you, the parent, information that you can use to educate and protect your children from sex offenders and child molester



The Key for Parents:

Children are the most precious people in our lives. It is our responsibility as parents to ensure their safety and protect them from harm.

References

Filtering Software

Net Nanny Parental Controls 6
Safe Eyes
CYBERSitter
Wise Choice
Cyber Patrol
Max Protect
FilterPak
NetMop
McAfee Parental Controls
Norton Parental Controls

Additional Books about Sex Offenders

[Click here to go to our website that gives the list of Bonus Books on Sex Offenders](#)

Free Sex Offender Databases

1. Apscreen, the oldest continually operated Consumer Reporting Agency provides a national sex offender registry database here that you can use absolutely free:
<http://www.apscreen.com/sexoffenders.htm>
2. [Megan's Law](#)
3. [Family Watchdog](#)