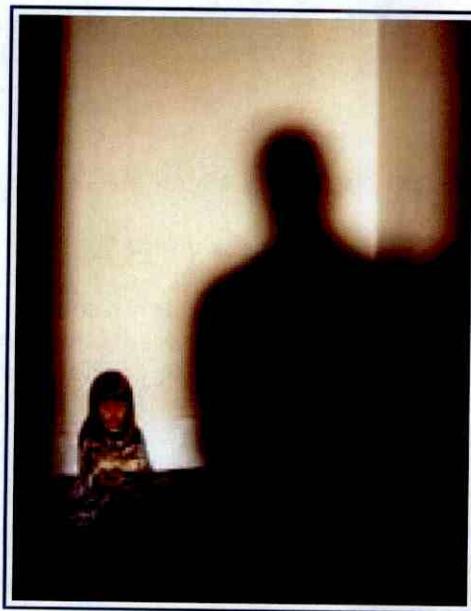


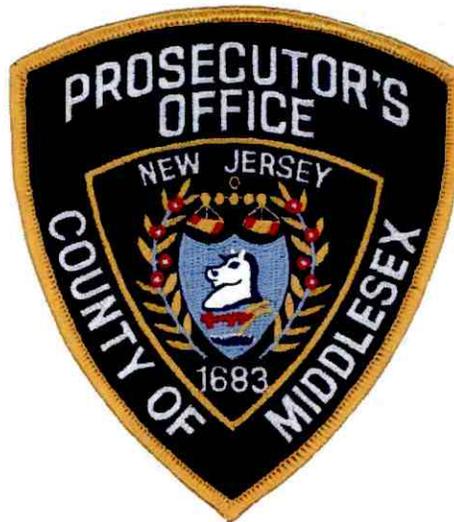
**M.O.R.E.**

**MIDDLESEX OUT-REACH  
AND EDUCATION**



**MEGAN'S LAW**

**A Guide To  
Megan's Law**



**MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
M.O.R.E. Unit  
25 Kirkpatrick Street  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901  
732-745-8840**

## **MEGAN'S LAW OVERVIEW:**

In New Jersey, Megan's Law requires convicted sex offenders to register with the local police. The law establishes a three-tier notification process for categorizing the offenders risk to the public. A Tier One registrant is considered a low-risk to re-offend. A Tier Two registrant is considered a moderate risk to re-offend, and a Tier Three offender is considered a high risk to re-offend. The Attorney General's Office has developed a set of guidelines to be used in determining the proper Tier for each offender. These guidelines are made up of many factors which must be evaluated on a case by case basis. The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office is able to identify these high risk sex offenders and help notify citizens of their whereabouts.

### **COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT MEGAN'S LAW:**

**Who is required to register under Megan's Law?**

Sex Offenders who have been released from custody since Megan's Law went into effect on October 31, 1994 are required to register with the police. In addition, offenders who were on parole or probation on the effective date of the law as well as offenders who have been found to be repetitive and compulsive by experts and the courts, regardless of the date of sentence, are required to register.

### How often must a sex offender register?

Most sex offenders register on an annual basis. However, those registrants who are found to be repetitive and compulsive need to register every 90 days with their local police department. Registrants must also notify the local police department when they change their address.

### WHO IS NOTIFIED IF A SEX OFFENDER LIVES IN THE AREA?

Sex offenders are categorized by a tier process based on the degree of risk they pose to the public. A Tier 3 offender is high risk, a Tier 2 offender is moderate risk and a Tier 1 offender is low risk. If a Tier 3 offender moves into your neighborhood, you will be notified. A law enforcement officer will come to your door and provide you with a Megan's Law notice containing the offender's name and photograph, his/her address, place of employment, a description of the offender's vehicle, license plate number, and description of the crime. If a Tier 2 offender moves into your neighborhood, you will NOT be notified. Instead, a Megan's Law Notice will be provided to local schools, day care centers, camps and other community organizations in the area. If a Tier 1 offender moves into your community, NO ONE is entitled to notification. Only your local police department is aware of this offender's location. \*NOTE\*: Tier 3 and some Tier 2 offenders are posted on the internet. Anyone with internet access can go to the New Jersey State Police Web Site and look on the Sex Offender Registry.



### **WHAT CAN I DO WITH THE SEX OFFENDER INFORMATION I RECEIVE?**

Talk to your children. Tell them where the offender lives, what the offender looks like and what they should do if they encounter this person. Use the information you are given responsibly. Parents should also teach their children basic safety precautions. Instruct them not to talk to strangers. When approached by a stranger advise your children that it is OK to say NO and run. Be sure your child knows their name, address, and telephone number, but advise them never to give out any personal information over the internet or phone.

### **WHAT AM I PROHIBITED FROM DOING WITH THE INFORMATION?**

Do not take matters into your own hands. The information you receive from law enforcement is for you and your family only. Do not share the information with anyone else. It is the job of law enforcement to notify the public, not yours. Any actions taken against an individual named in the sex offender notification, including vandalism of property, verbal or written threats of harm, or physical violence against this person or their family will result in arrest and prosecution.

### **IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT MEGAN'S LAW:**

- You are NOT entitled to know the whereabouts of every Megan's Law Offender (Remember, you are only personally notified about High Risk (TIER 3) Offenders.
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- Not all Megan's Law Offenders appear on the internet.(Only Tier 3 and some Tier 2 offenders appear on the Internet.)
- Megan's Law does not always prohibit offenders from living in a home with children.(Parole and Probation may provide limitations. If you have any concerns about a child's safety contact the Division of Youth and Family Services)
- Your realtor or the local police cannot tell you if a sex offender lives in a neighborhood before you buy a home You do not have the right to know if a sex offender lives in a neighborhood before you move there. You can do your own research on the internet, but remember not all sex offenders are posted on the internet.

**Helpful Phone Numbers and Websites:**

Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office  
25 Kirkpatrick St. 3rd Floor  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
732-745-3300  
Website:  
[www.co.middlesex.nj.us/prosecutor](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/prosecutor):

NJ State Police Sex Offender Registry  
[www.njsp.org](http://www.njsp.org)  
Click on Sex Offender Registry

Division of Youth and Family Services  
Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline:  
1-877-NJ ABUSE (652-2873)