

# INFORMATION ABOUT SEX OFFENDERS

The information below describes systems developed to provide information about specific sex offenders. These systems are very helpful in identifying and tracking known offenders. Please note, however, that these systems only provide information about a small percentage of offenders, specifically those who have been reported and convicted. Keep in mind that most sexual violence is never reported and the success rate for prosecution is very low. Therefore, most sex offenders are not listed on the Sex Offender Registry. It is important to remember that anyone can be an offender and most victims are attacked by someone they know.

## INFORMATION ABOUT INCARCERATED OFFENDERS

**VINE (or Victim Identification & Notification Everyday)** provides notification of critical information about incarcerated offenders. VINE is an automated, state-wide victim notification system that provides information about inmates housed in local jails and adult correctional facilities, as well as some juvenile offenders. It is operated by the Kentucky Department of Corrections. Through computer generated telephone calls and e-mails, all registrants are contacted when an inmate's custody status has changed. (For example, a "custody status change" would include the release or escape of an inmate). A registrant can also be notified of upcoming parole hearings. The system can be used by survivors, law enforcement officials, and members of the general public. Information can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 1-800-511-1670 or going to [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com). To receive automatic notification, one must first register by calling the number above or visiting the web site. Once registration is completed, the system automatically sends notifications to the registrants when updated information is received. The system will continue to call all phone registrants for an established period of time or until the requesting party acknowledges receipt of the information by entering their 4-digit PIN. E-mail notifications are sent only once.

**Kentucky Offender On-Line Look-up System (KOOL)** also provides information about incarcerated offenders. Information provided on-line includes location of incarceration, convictions, sentencing, and parole. To use KOOL, visit [www.corrections.ky.gov](http://www.corrections.ky.gov), then select "Inmate Search." For more information, visit the Department of Corrections website at [www.corrections.ky.gov/KOOL](http://www.corrections.ky.gov/KOOL).

## NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER PUBLIC REGISTRY

**National Sex Offender Public Registry**

[www.nsopr.gov](http://www.nsopr.gov)

## INFORMATION ABOUT RELEASED SEX OFFENDERS

**Kentucky's Sex Offender Registry** tracks convicted offenders who have been released. For information see KRS 17.500 *et al.* The Registry provides a broad range of information about these offenders, including identifying information, photographs, residence, and brief descriptions of types of crimes committed. This Registry is maintained by the Kentucky State Police and is accessible to the general public at: [www.kentuckystatepolice.org/sor.htm](http://www.kentuckystatepolice.org/sor.htm).

Registration is required for all Kentucky residents who have been: convicted of a sex crime or crime against a minor; required to register in another state, country or by federal law; or designated a sexually violent predator. Registration is required whether the crime or incarceration occurred in Kentucky or elsewhere. Persons required to register must do so before being released from incarceration. Registrants must also update information whenever they relocate. Some offenders are required to register for 20 years, others for life. Offenders who fail to register or knowingly provide false information may be charged with a felony. No registrant may be relieved of the obligation to register unless the conviction is overturned or pardon is granted. All registered sex offenders are prohibited from residing within 1,000 feet of any high school, middle school, elementary school, preschool, publicly owned playground or licensed day care facility. The limitation is to be measured from property line to property line. Each registrant is responsible for determining whether he or she is living too close to one of these facilities and must move if necessary. For information see KRS 17.500.

**Kentucky's Sex Offender Alert Line** provides up-to-date information regarding the release of registered sex offenders into local communities. This system is distinct in that notification is based on zip-code registration, whereas VINE provides information about specific offenders. Anyone can register for notification by calling 1-866-564-5652 at any time. Callers are prompted to provide the telephone number to be notified and up to three zip codes to monitor. As soon as the Kentucky State Police receive notice that a registered sex offender is moving into one of the zip code areas entered, the registered number will receive an automated notification call. The Alert Line system will attempt calls every two hours for a 24-hour period beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 9:00 pm. Calls are not made between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm to prevent children from receiving calls. However, notification messages are left on telephone answering machines.

