

Adult Sex Offender Registration

This survey researched sex offender registration for adults in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia (DC). Please refer to the accompanying table for more details regarding registration terms.

Duration of Sex Offender Registration Requirements

13 states have lifetime registration requirements for adult sex offenders.¹ 21 jurisdictions categorize the length of registration requirements based on the underlying offense. Of these, 12 require offenders of sexually violent or more serious crimes to register for life, and other offenders to register for 10 years.² The other 9 states are more varied in the lengths of required registration periods.³

15 states explicitly name a tiered approach to categorizing sex offenses and the lengths of their required registration periods. 7 states categorize into 3 tiers with 15 year, 25 year, and lifetime registration requirements.⁴ The remaining 7 have similar tiered registration requirements.⁵ North Carolina has a standard 30 year registration requirement for sex offenders. Arizona's standard requirement is for 10 years.

Lifetime Registration	Registration Requirement Dependent on Underlying Offense	Explicit Tiered Approach	Other
AL, CO, FL, GA, HI, ID, MT, NJ, OR, SC, TN, VA, WY.	AK, AR, CT, DC, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MA, MN, NE, NM, ND, RI, TX, UT, VT, WV, WI	CA, DE, ME, MD, MI, MS, MO, NV, NH, NY, OH, OK, PA, SD, WA	NC, AZ

Extensions on Required Registration Duration

20 states and DC impose lifetime registration requirements on repeat sex offenders.⁶ Five states also extend the required registration duration for violating registration requirements: Arizona increases the duration to a lifetime requirement for someone who violates the terms of their

¹ AL, CO, FL, GA, HI, ID, MT, NJ, OR, SC, TN, VA, WY.

² CT, DC, IL, IN, IA, MN, NM, RI, TX, UT, VT, WV.

³ AK (life for agg offense, 15 years for others), AR (life for agg offense), KS (15/25/life depending on crime), KY (life for more serious crimes, 20 years for others), LA (15/25/life depending on crime), MA (life for sexually violent predators, 20 years for others), NE (15/25/life depending on crime), ND (15/25/life depending on crime), WI (life or 15 years depending on crime).

⁴ DE, MD, MI, MS, MO, NV, OK, PA.

⁵ CA (10/20/life), ME (10/25/life), NH (10/life), NY (20/life), OH (15/20/life), SD (10/25/life), WA (10/15/life).

⁶ AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, DC, HI, IN, KS, ME, MA, MS, NE, NJ, NY, OK, RI, VT, WV, WI.

registration more than three times; Illinois, Iowa, and New Hampshire impose an additional 10 years of registration; and Minnesota imposes an additional 5 years.

In addition, Louisiana allows a district attorney to motion the court to extend an offender's registration requirement for life upon a showing of substantial risk of recidivism. Minnesota will also require an additional 10 years of required registration for subsequent offenses.

Relieving or Reducing Required Registration

26 states have a process for offenders to petition for early release from registration requirements based on the underlying conviction.⁷ If a state has a tiered approach to categorizing sex offenses, the tiers will also dictate the minimum amount of years that must elapse before an offender can petition the court.⁸ 12 states and DC also allow some offenders to petition to reduce the length of the required registration period.⁹

In Alabama and Arizona, an offender's ability to petition for relief depends on the age of the victim and the age of the offender when the crime was committed.¹⁰ New Hampshire also allows certain offenders to petition to remove their name from the public list of offenders.

Notification Provisions Within the Registration Statute

6 states included a specific community notification section within their sexual offender registration statute.¹¹ In addition, 20 states included some community notification provisions within the registration statute.¹² For example, 9 states authorized the maintenance of a public registry of offenders.¹³ Michigan and Virginia's statutes include some processes for automatic notifications to subscribers or local schools and daycares when a registered offender moves to the community. Other states give local law enforcement discretion to determine when to notify a community.¹⁴ Oregon has a placeholder in their registration statute directing the Department of

⁷ AR, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, ID, MA, MI, MS, MO, MT, NJ, NY, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, SD, TN, TX, UT, WA, WV, WY.

⁸ *E.g.*, MI (Tier I may petition after 10 years, Tier III may petition after 25 years) ; SD (Tier I may petition after 5 years, Tier II may petition after 25 years).

⁹ DE, DC, IN, IA, LA, MD, NE, NV, NY, NC, OR, RI, VA.

¹⁰ AL (may petition at sentencing based on age of victim and age difference from offender; lesser offenses convicted before July 1, 2011 may also petition); AZ (may petition if at least 35 years old and committed crime when younger than 22 years old, victim was at least 15 years old, and no subsequent violations).

¹¹ AZ, NV, OH, RI, TN, VT.

¹² AR, CA, DE, DC, HI, ID, KS, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, MT, NJ, NM, NC, ND, OR, PA, TX, VA.

¹³ DE, ID, MD, MA, MI, MO, NM, PA, VA.

¹⁴ AR (local law enforcement can disclose information to public based on future dangerous, before sex offender is released, or if owner of nearby childcare facility is married to sex offender), CA (if school employee arrested for sex offense, sheriff will notify local school officials), DC (police have authority to notify community based on class of offenders), ID (safety department shall disseminate information to schools, public housing officials, criminal justice agencies, and volunteer organizations, among others), MD (local law enforcement shall provide notice to local

Police and supervising agencies to enter into agreements regarding community notification practices.

Violations of Registration Requirements

The vast majority of states have mandatory classifications for offenders who violate their registration requirements. 25 states classify a registration violation as a felony or misdemeanor.¹⁵ 3 states look to the underlying sex offense to determine the punishment.¹⁶ Florida also imposes electronic monitoring on those who violate their registration requirements. 4 states and DC have established jail time and/or fines for violations.¹⁷ 11 states impose both mandatory convictions and liability for jail time and/or fines.¹⁸

Not Included in Analysis

To limit the breadth of this research, this state survey did not consider any variations in state law for offenders with out-of-state convictions or the effects of pardons or expungements on registration requirements. It also did not analyze notification requirements of the offenders.

school officials), MS (Department of Public Safety may provide notice to local residents), MT (department of justice or registration agency shall release information to public if determine risk), NM (county sheriff will contact nearby licensed daycares and schools), ND (relevant and necessary information will be disclosed to public if moderate or high risk).

¹⁵ AL (Class C felony), AZ (Class 4 felony), AR (Class C felony), CT (Class D felony), DE (Class G felony), FL (class of felony depends on whether repeat offender), HI (Class C felony), IN (class of felony depends on whether repeat offender), IA (agg misdemeanor for first offense, class D felony for second offense); KS (agg violation, varying levels of felony based on length of violation), KY (class of felony depends on whether repeat offender), ME (class of felony depends on whether repeat offender), MD (misdemeanor or felony for subsequent violations), NE (class of felony depends on whether repeat offender), NV (class of felony depends on whether repeat offender), NH (misdemeanor or felony depending on elements of violation), NJ (crime of third degree), NM (class of felony depends on whether repeat offender), NC (Class F felony), ND (Class C felony), SD (class of felony depends on whether repeat offender), TN (Class E felony), TX (class of felony depends on whether repeat offender), WA (class of felony depends on whether repeat offender), WI (Class H felony).

¹⁶ CA (if underlying crime is a misdemeanor, then violation of registration requirement is misdemeanor; same for felonies), CO (if underlying crime is a misdemeanor, then violation of registration requirement is misdemeanor; same for felonies), OH (look to degree of underlying offense to determine).

¹⁷ DC (punishable by imprisonment up to 180 days and fine, LA (punishable by fine up to \$3,000 and/or imprisonment with hard labor up to 20 years, depending on whether repeat offender), MA (punishable by between 6 months to 5 years in prison and/or fine up to \$1,000, depending on whether repeat offender), MT (punishable by imprisonment up to 5 years and/or \$10,000 fine), VT (imprisonable up to 3 years and/or \$5,000 fine, depending on whether repeat offender).

¹⁸ ID, IL, MI, MN, MS< MO, OK, RI, SC, UT, WY.