

“SORN (sex offender registration and notification) laws have extended sanctions and their negative economic, social, and psychological consequences to others associated with sex offenders.”

“A result may be that these laws ultimately impel loved ones to distance themselves from the registered sex offender in order to limit, manage, or cope with their own experiences of collateral consequences.”

“Such a system is well intentioned but misguided. The result will be an exponentially growing number of registered sex offenders who are publicly identified for longer periods of time; of course this will also proliferate the impact of SORN laws on family members. Part of the controversy is the *collateral consequences* for family members of the registered former offender.”

The above comments are taken directly from the only study to date on this subject: Levenson and Tewksbury. *Collateral Damage: Family Members of Registered Sex Offenders*.

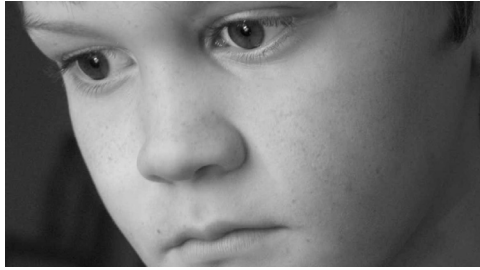
This brochure will cover just a few of the most onerous aspects that families of registered offenders must deal with and they are:

THE PUBLIC REGISTRY'S EFFECT ON THE CHILDREN

THE EFFECT OF RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS

WORK/FINANCIAL ISSUES

VIGILANTISM



THE PUBLIC REGISTRY'S EFFECT ON THE CHILDREN

While proponents of the sex offender registry scramble to find even one case where the registry has protected a child, the children of registered offenders numbering into the hundreds of thousands suffer daily. One study found the following results:

When asked, children of registered offenders stated that because their family members were listed on the public registry:

- 47% - had been harassed by others
- 59% - were ridiculed by others
- 52% - suffered teasing by others
- 22% - were physically attacked by others
- 65% - feel left out with other children
- 77% - suffer depression
- 73% - feel anxiety
- 63% - suffer from fear
- 13% - have suicidal tendencies
- 80% - have anger issues

When we read these statistics we must ask: Are we neglecting the welfare of these children or perhaps much worse, encouraging behaviors that lead to children becoming social outcasts due to the public registry?

THE EFFECT OF RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS

While studies have shown that residency restrictions have no effect on recidivism, a pitchfork carrying public still pushes such outdated laws. A study has looked at the effect of these laws as they relate to the family of registered offenders:

41% found it difficult to find an affordable place to live that was not too close to a school, bus stop, park, daycare, or playground.

28% experienced a landlord refusing to rent to someone because a family member was a sex offender.

18% experienced a landlord refusing to renew a lease because a family member was a sex offender.

15% had to move out of a residence that they rented because it was too close to a school, bus stop, park, daycare, playground, or other place children congregate, and they wanted to live with their registered family member.

33% were unable to live with their partners because of residency restrictions.

16% had to move out of a house that they owned because it was too close to a school, bus stop, park, daycare, playground, or other place children congregate, and they wanted to live with their registered family members.

**REGISTRANTS & FAMILIES
SUPPORT LINE
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