

The Sex Offense Registry is counterproductive and ineffective. It does not make society safer because it increases unemployment and homelessness among registered people. And, associated residency restrictions prevent registered persons from living with family where financial and emotional support are available. According to Levenson, J. & Tewksbury, R., *Collateral Damage: Family Members of Registered Sex Offenders*, families reported employment problems and financial hardships as the most pressing issues. And residency restriction laws led to housing disruption. Family members reported threats and harassment by neighbors. And children of RSOs experienced stigmatization and differential treatment by teachers and classmates.

According to the SORNA system, sex offenders are classified into three tiers based on the nature and seriousness of their sex offenses and their histories of recidivism. This statement is not always true because some offenders are placed into a more stringent tier only due to relocation to a different state. For example, in New Jersey a young man was convicted in late 2006, and classified as Tier 1, with a lifetime registration requirement, and the right to apply for waiver of registration requirements if he didn't reoffend after 15 years. However, after returning home to Ohio in August of 2008 he was reclassified as Tier II, and subsequent to that, as Sexual Predator. These changes were imposed without any new offense being committed. In response to letters of inquiry to the Ohio Attorney General and County Sheriff, the registered person received a reply from the county sheriff. It said the only classification which requires lifetime reporting in Ohio is sexual predator, therefore his classification of sexual predator is appropriate. The Attorney General never replied to the young man's inquiry.

It makes no sense that a 22 year old who had a consensual sexual encounter with a 15 year old would be classified as a sexual predator for life! It represents a total denial of the fact that young people can learn from their mistakes, change their lives, and be rehabilitated. This young man's debt to society was paid when he was classified as Tier 1 sex offender and required to register. The sex offense registry has become a draconian system with no regard for the seriousness of sex offenses or the history of recidivism. It fails to live up to its stated purpose with regard to classification of people, and does not make society safer. It destroys the lives of people who might otherwise reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society. The proposed regulations to SORNA will only make the dysfunctional system worse.