

On January 1, 2008, Ohio's Sex Offender Registration laws changed. Ohio became one of the first States in the nation to adopt the provisions of the Adam Walsh Act. The Adam Walsh Act was passed and signed into federal law in 2006. It required States to implement the provisions and guidelines of the Adam Walsh Act or risk losing federal block grant money. The intent of the Adam Walsh Act is to provide a universal method of determining sex offender classifications and the requirements of those classifications in all State's nationwide.

The Adam Walsh Act replaces previous sex offender classification designations such as Sexual Predator, or Sexually Oriented Offender, with Tier classification designations. The Tier classification designations for sex offenders are determined by the criminal offense or offenses the offender was convicted of. The Adam Walsh Act was retroactive and included the re-classification of all sex offenders previously convicted as well as determining the classification of all sex offenders convicted in the future.

The County Sheriff is responsible under Ohio law for the registration of sex offenders. Sex offenders must register with the County Sheriff on scheduled periodic bases, which is determined by their sex offender Tier classification. In addition, sex offenders must register with the County Sheriff any change of residential address, place of employment, or enrollment in a school or institution of higher education.

Classification of Offenders:

SEXUAL PREDATOR is defined as a person who has been convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, committing a sexually oriented offense and who is likely in the future to commit additional sexually oriented offenses.

Offenders can be classified as sexual predators in one of the following ways:

1. The offender is convicted of a sexually violent offense with a sexually violent predator specification, or
2. The sentencing court, after holding a sexual predator hearing pursuant to O.R.C. 2950.09, determines that the offender is a sexual predator.

Offenders designated as sexual predators are subject to registration/verification requirements annually for life unless a judge modifies or terminates the sexual predator designation. Sexual predators are subject to the neighbor/community notification provisions and the reporting requirements at 90-day intervals.

HABITUAL SEX OFFENDER is defined as a person who has been convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, committing a sexually oriented offense, and who previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one or more sexually oriented offenses.

Offenders designated as habitual sex offenders are subject to registration/verification

requirements annually for a period of 20 years after release. A sentencing judge may determine that a habitual sex offender is subject to neighbor/community notification. SEXUALLY ORIENTED OFFENDER is a person who has been convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, committing a sexually oriented offense, but who has not been designated as a sexual predator or habitual sex offender.

Sexually oriented offenders are subject to the resignation / verification requirements annually for a period of 10 years after release. These offenders are not subject to neighbor/community notification.

A CHILD VICTIM OFFENDER is a person who has been convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, committing a child-victim oriented offense. (Abduction 2905.02, Child Stealing (former) 2905.04, Criminal Child Enticement 2905.05, Kidnapping 2905.01 (A)(1)(2)(3)(5), Unlawful Restraint 2905.03)

Child victim offenders are subject to the resignation / verification requirements annually for a period of 10 years after release. These offenders are not subject to neighbor/community notification.

Tier III

Registration with address verification every 90 days for life

2907.02 Rape

2907.03 Sexual Battery

2903.01 Agg. Murder with sexual motivation

2903.02 Murder with sexual motivation

2903.04(A) Unlawful Death or termination of pregnancy as a result of committing or attempt to commit a felony with sexual motivation.

2905.01 (A)(4) Kidnapping of minor to engage in sexual activity

2905.01 (B) Kidnapping of minor, not by parent

2907.05 (B) {New section of Gross Sexual Imposition}

2903.11 Felonious Assault with sexual motivation

Pre-AWA(Adam Walsh Act) predators unless re-classified after hearing under ORC 2950.031 or 2950.032

Any sexual offense that occurs after the offender is classified as a Tier II or III offender.

Automatic classification after SVP specification 2971.03

Includes an attempt, complicity, or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses.

* Any law from another jurisdiction that is comparable to these offenses shall fall within that same tier.

Tier II

Registration with address verification every 180 days for 25 years

2907.21 Compelling Prostitution

2907.321 Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor

2907.322 Pandering Sexually Oriented Material Involving a Minor

2907.323 (A)(1) and (2) Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity-oriented Material or Performance

2907.04 when the offender is at least 4 years older, or when the offender is less than 4 years older and has prior conviction for 2907.02, 2907.03, 2907.04.

2907.05 (A)(4) Gross Sexual Imposition victim under 13

2919.22 (B)(5) Child Endangering

2905.01 (A)(1)-(3), (5) Kidnapping with sexual Motivation

2905.01 (A)(4), victim over 18

2905.02 (B) Abduction with sexual motivation {new under SB 10}

Any sexual offense that occurs after the offender has been classified as a Tier I offender.

Includes an attempt, complicity, or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses.

Pre-AWA Habitual offenders, unless re-classified after hearing under ORC 2950.031 or 2950.032

* Any law from another jurisdiction that is comparable to these offenses shall fall within that same tier.

Tier I

Registration with address verification annually for 15 years

2907.07 Importuning

2907.04 Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor, non-consensual and offender less than 4 years older than victim, not previously convicted of 2907.02, 2907.03, or 2907.04.

2907.08 Voyeurism

2907.06 Sexual Imposition

2907.05 (A)(1)-(3), (5) Gross Sexual Imposition

2907.323 (A)(3) Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity-oriented Material or Performance

2905.05 (B) Child Enticement with sexual motivation {new under SB 10}

2907.32 Pandering Obscenity

2903.211 (A)(3) Menacing by Stalking with sexual motivation {new under SB10}

2905.03(B) Unlawful Restraint with sexual motivation {new under SB 10}

Includes an attempt, complicity, or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses.

Child-victim offender not in Tier II or III.

* Any law from another jurisdiction that is comparable to these offenses shall fall within that same tier.