

- The Sheriff's Office sends out news releases, a message via our automated telephone calling system, and provides links on the PCSO website for the public to access information regarding predators and offenders. Detectives notify schools and daycares.
- Established a partnership with the State Attorney's Office committing to "Zero Tolerance" for offenders and predators who fail to comply with registration requirements.



**Do I have the right to notify other people in my neighborhood if a sexual predator or offender moves into my neighborhood?**

Yes, you do have the right to notify your neighbors, but, there are certain guidelines that must be followed.

- You may print the **FDLE** flyer off of the Internet to post or hand out.
- It is against the law to alter that flyer.
- It is against the law to harass or falsely accuse a sexual predator or sexual offender of a crime, simply because that person has been designated as a sexual predator or sexual offender.

**PCSO Goals**

- To ensure the safety of the citizens of Polk County.
- To protect our children from repeat sexual offenders.
- To make Polk County a safer place to live.
- To ensure Polk County does not become a safe haven for sexual predators and sexual offenders.
- To make law enforcement agencies and the communities within our county aware of sexual offenders and sexual predators.
- To locate sexual offenders who have absconded from supervision or failed to register and take appropriate action.
- To investigate reported offenses of repeat sexual offenders.
- To verify addresses of sexual predators and offenders.



<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/domesticviolence>

**Sex Offender/Designated Predator Residence Restriction Ordinance**

It is prohibited and unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a violation of 794.011, 800.04, 827.071, or 847.0145, Florida Statutes, or an equivalent offense prohibited in another state, regardless of whether adjudication has been withheld, when the victim of the offense for which the conviction resulted was under eighteen (18) years of age at the time the offense was committed, to establish a permanent residence or a temporary residence located within Polk County when such residence is located within 2,500 feet of any school, day care center, public park, playground, or public library. In addition to the above stated requirement, a designated sexual predator is also prohibited from residing within 1,000 feet of a designated school bus stop or church. Punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding sixty (60) days unless otherwise authorized by state law, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

**Available Resources**

Utilize the Following Websites:  
**Sexual Predators & Offenders**  
[www.polksheriff.org](http://www.polksheriff.org)  
 Link: Sexual Offender Locator  
**National Sexual Offender Registry**  
[www.nsopr.gov](http://www.nsopr.gov)

**"The Facts"  
Sexual Predators  
and  
Sexual Offenders**



**Polk County**

**Sheriff's**

**Office**





## Florida Law

- Florida Statute **775.21** defines and governs "Sexual Predators."
- Florida Statute **943.0435** defines and governs "Sexual Offenders."
- Designation of a "Sexual Predator" requires a conviction and written finding from the court.
- Designation of "Sexual Offender" merely requires a conviction."



**"Conviction" means:** There has been a determination of guilt as a result of a trial, a plea of guilty or a plea of no contest, **regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.**

### Two Classifications:

- Sexual Offenders
- Sexual Predators



Don't let your family become the victim of a sexual predator or offender.

## The Sexual Offender:

For a person to be classified as an offender, they must have one conviction for any felony sexual crime against a child or an adult. The offender must have been released from any sanction(s) imposed for that crime on or after 10/01/97.

## The Sexual Predator:

For a person to be classified as a sexual predator, a judge must make a specific written finding that an offender is a sexual predator before that offender can be officially designated as a sexual predator. There are three ways a judge can make this written finding:

1. "First Strike." Be convicted of committing one crime that is classified as a Capital, Life or First Degree Felony and is sexual in nature on or after 10/01/93.
2. "Second Strike." Be convicted of committing any felony crime of a sexual nature on or after 10/01/93.
3. An offender who has been determined to be a sexually violent predator pursuant to a civil commitment proceeding under Chapter 394, F.S.

## Sexual Offender and Sexual Predator Registration

### Current Law Requires:

1. Sexual predators and sexual offenders to register within 48 hours after entering the county. Part of that process includes having their new address updated on their driver's license.
2. "County and Local Law Enforcement agencies, in conjunction with FDLE" to verify the addresses of sexual offenders and sexual predators who are not under the supervision of the Department of Corrections.

- Sexual predator addresses verified quarterly
- Sexual offender addresses verified annually

### Polk County Sheriff's Office Response



The Sheriff has taken an aggressive stance regarding sexual predator and sexual offender address verification and implemented a quarterly verification process for **both** sexual predators and sexual offenders.

A special unit has been established to coordinate monitoring of predators and offenders living in Polk County.

## Community Notification

Florida Statutes require the law enforcement agency which provides police services in the area where a sexual predator or sexual offender registers their address to make community notification when a sexual predator or sexual offender registers in their jurisdiction. Notification must be made to schools and daycares within a one-mile radius of a temporary or permanent residence: Notification must also be made to the public.

### Polk County Sheriff's Office



The Polk County Sheriff's Office is taking proactive measures to continue to ensure the safety of our citizens with respect to sexual predators and sexual offenders.

- The Sheriff's Office notifies the community within 48 hours after a sexual predator or sexual offender registers a new address in the unincorporated areas of the county.
- Established a joint partnership with DOC and FDLE to guarantee sexual predators and sexual offenders are monitored.