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Wisconsin Department of Corrections Sex Offender Registry Program

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Sex Offender Supervision and Rules

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Public safety is the primary objective of sex offender supervision. The offender's potential for reoffense must remain paramount in the minds of staff responsible for the supervision of sex offenders. The implications of reoffense and further victimization are extremely serious given the nature of these types of offenses.

Sex offenders are not like other offenders in that factors such as stable employment, financial stability, offender compliance, and a prosocial lifestyle may not necessarily indicate a reduced level of risk. Behaviors serving as precursors to reoffense are often subtle and seemingly unrelated to sexual deviance.

Critical elements of effective supervision include the following:

- Level of supervision is to be directly related to the risk the offender presents to others
- Early intervention and immediate response to violations to control risk
- Use of personal/community and professional supervision networks to help monitor, modify, and control offender's behavior
- Offender not allowed to remain anonymous

Close coordination with law enforcement and other community agencies is another important element of supervision. Active, coordinated supervision and participation in treatment/correctional programming can provide increased offender accountability as well as opportunities for the offender to obtain knowledge and skills to prevent relapse and avoid reoffense.

Supervising sex offenders is a multifaceted activity, requiring agents to adopt various roles and to work closely with a variety of other professionals as well as family members, employers and others who routinely interact with the offender. A high level of vigilance is required to anticipate and detect offender activities that increase the risk for reoffending and/or maintaining deviant thoughts and behaviors.

The dynamics of sexual deviance are complicated, pervasive and frequently impact most areas of the offender's life. Effective supervision of sex offenders requires the imposition of rules/conditions that address offender issues, impulses, and behaviors that are intensely personal, private and sensitive. The process of developing and imposing rules/conditions of supervision can cause discomfort for both the offender and the agent.

At first glance, rules for sex offenders may appear onerous, extreme or overly cautious. However, when these rules are considered within the context of an offender's criminal history and patterns of sexual deviancy, the relevance and necessity of such rules become evident. Sufficient levels of control and intrusion

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into personal aspects of the offender's life are frequently necessary to detect, interrupt, and intervene in an offender's deviant cycle. The offender's cycle is often supported and maintained by secrecy and denial; therefore, it is imperative that the rules imposed address the unique needs of a particular sex offender, even if such rules appear intrusive.

At intake, a standard set of sex offender rules is imposed for all sex offenders placed on supervision. Other special rules may also be added as appropriate based upon each offender's particular case and history. These special rules must be related to current and /or past criminal behavior and/or conviction history. The rules also must be related to community protection and the offender's rehabilitation. Additionally, the rule must be such that it can be monitored, enforced and the offender is held accountable. Lastly, the rule must be clearly explained to the offender and understood by the offender. When imposing rules, the agent must consider the ability to detect the violation of the rule and the willingness and ability to hold the offender accountable for violation of the rule.

The following are Wisconsin Department of Corrections standard supervision rules specifically for sex offenders:

1. You shall have no contact with _____ nor any prior victims of your offenses nor their family members without prior agent approval. This includes face-to-face, telephone, mail, electronic, third party, or "drive by" contact.
2. You shall have no contact with anyone under the age of 18 without prior agent approval and unless accompanied by an adult sober chaperone approved by your agent. This includes face-to-face, telephone, mail, electronic, third party, or "drive by" contact.
3. You shall not establish, pursue, nor maintain any dating and/or romantic and/or sexual relationship without prior agent approval.
4. You shall fully cooperate with, participate in, and successfully complete all evaluations, counseling, and treatment as required by your agent, including but not limited to sex offender programming. "Successful completion" shall be determined by your agent and treatment provider (s). If sex offender treatment is required, you must attend and account for the details of the behavior committed in your conviction offense(s). Failure to admit the offense(s) or provide a detailed description will be considered a violation of your supervision and may result in disciplinary action including the recommendation for revocation of your supervision. Information revealed in treatment concerning your conviction offense(s) cannot be used against you in criminal proceedings.
5. You shall not reside nor "stay" overnight in any place other than a pre-approved residence without prior agent approval. "Overnight" is defined as the daily period of time between the hours of _____ p.m. and _____ a.m. unless redefined by your agent in advance.
6. You shall permit no person to reside nor stay in your designated residence between the hours of _____ p.m. and _____ a.m. without prior agent approval.
7. You shall not possess, consume, nor use any controlled substance nor possess any drug paraphernalia without a current prescription from a physician from whom you are receiving medical treatment. Verification must be provided to your agent as directed.
8. You shall not possess nor view any sexually explicit material-visual, auditory, nor computer-generated-without prior agent approval.
9. You shall seek, obtain, and maintain employment as directed by your agent. You shall obtain agent approval before accepting any offer of employment and prior to beginning any volunteer work.
10. You shall not purchase, own, nor manage any residential rental

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- properties without prior agent approval.
11. You shall fully comply with all sex offender registry requirements as applicable and directed by your agent and/or required by statute. You shall immediately respond to all correspondence from the Sex Offender Registry Program.
 12. You shall fully comply with Wisconsin Statute 165.76 requiring a biological specimen to be submitted to the State Crime Lab for DNA testing as applicable and as directed by your agent.
 13. You shall pay all court ordered financial obligations and treatment co-payments as directed by your agent in accordance with your established payment plan.
 14. You shall not purchase, possess, nor use a computer, software, hardware, nor modem without prior agent approval.

Rules and conditions are frequently discussed between agent and offender. Due to the nature of sex offenses, agent interaction with the offender during face-to-face contacts requires skill and careful planning. The intrusive nature of questions asked and discussion of sensitive, personal issues often create discomfort and embarrassment for the offender. Sex offenders are frequently reluctant to disclose information about their activities and patterns of sexual deviance. This reluctance is sometimes caused by feelings of guilt and shame. However, failure to disclose is frequently a result of denial and serves as a means for maintaining secrecy about behaviors.

Offenders must come to recognize and acknowledge their offenses and patterns of sexual deviancy if they are to be successful in managing and controlling their behavior.

If the offender is motivated to change, disclosure of behaviors typically occurs over time. As the offender gains trust in the agent and the treatment provider, information is gradually shared and a more complete sexual history is obtained.

Violations of rules are considered serious. Prompt response to all violations by sex offenders is an essential element of supervision. Violations, which may be considered minor for other types of offenders, are often serious for sex offenders. Seemingly insignificant violations may support or be closely related to the offender's pattern for sexually deviant behavior. For sex offenders, even "minor" rules violations may warrant revocation. Protection of the public and potential victims are the primary concern.



Call anytime (608)240-5830
Office hours 7:45-4:30 Mon-Fri
Other times please leave a message

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