**LITTLE KNOWN WAYS OF BEING ADDED TO THE SEX OFFENSE REGISRY**

(adapted from “Seven Surprising Things That Could Make you a Sex Offender” by Erin Fuchs, in *Business Insider*, October 9, 2013)

Many people on the sex offense registry are not dangerous in any respect; most are not violent in any way. Yet such registries can produce humiliation and negative reactions because of common yet faulty beliefs about those who are on the registry. Here are some actions that have resulted in people being placed on the registry, and often serving time in prison. The national registry includes many minors as well as adults.

“Sexting” – sending nude pictures of oneself when you are under the age of 18. Many such incidents have been described by Human Rights Watch. For example, a girl 15 years of age placed naked pictures of herself online in 2014, and at last report remains on the registry. The youngest child on the national registry was 8 years old.

Being a prostitute or visiting a prostitute can result in being added to the registry in some states.

Public urination is a prosecutable offense in many states and can result in being added to the registry, the Human Rights Watch reports. While public urination, alone, will not put a person on the registry in Florida, it is likely to require registration if someone under the age of eighteen sees this occur.

A woman who flashed her breasts can be charged with indecent exposure and placed on the registry.

In most states, consensual sex between teenagers can prompt court proceedings and inclusion on the sex offense registry. If one or both are under the age of 18 –even if only one year apart—such action can be taken. It makes no difference whether they know it is illegal or not.

Any sexual contact between family members, including siblings, can result in being added to the registry.

The Wall Street Journal reported that a child in Colorado was added to the registry for hugging another youngster too much. He was 13 years old.

In most of the above cases, registration lasts for many years and potentially up to a lifetime. A judge may have little or no discretion in sentencing.