



Florida Action Committee, Inc.
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March 12, 2020

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)
Missing Persons and Offender Registration
2331 Phillips Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

SENT VIA EMAIL
sexpred@fdle.state.fl.us

RE: REGISTRATION AND COVID-19

To Whom It May Concern:

The Florida Action Committee is a not-for-profit public safety advocacy group. Our organization is comprised of over 2000 members, among them registered Sexual Offenders/Predators.

During times of natural disasters or emergencies, we receive many inquiries from members looking for guidance on what to do in situations where mandatory in-person reporting would expose a registrant to undue hardship or is impossible. We are writing to you for guidance so that we, in turn, can disseminate accurate information to our membership.

Florida, along with the rest of the world, is in a state of uncertainty over the Coronavirus pandemic. Quarantines are being instituted, travel plans changing unexpectedly, and itineraries are being modified by airlines. As you are aware, these events trigger circumstances which require *in person* registration within defined periods of time. Any failure to comply is a felony.

It is not inconceivable that a return flight will be cancelled or rescheduled such that an intended 2 day stay becomes a "temporary residence" of 3 or more days, or that a prior-reported trip gets cancelled at the last minute and the reporting period falls during a time when a registration office is closed.

It is also entirely conceivable that a registrant will become symptomatic, in which case it would be irresponsible to appear *in person* to wait among others at the DHSMV or registration office. Many of our members rely on public transportation, which could unnecessarily expose themselves or others to infection. It is also possible that DHSMV and registration offices will close temporarily (as we have seen happen during hurricanes).

The purpose of this letter is to seek your guidance on what to advise our membership in the event in-person reporting is impossible or would potentially jeopardize their (or others') health. While we always instruct people to follow the law, we do not want to tell somebody to call-in information or report after-the-fact if that action would only serve to incriminate themselves.

We also ask that you encourage County Sheriff's Offices and prosecutors to avoid prosecuting technical registration violations where it can be demonstrated that compliance was impeded because of the coronavirus.

Finally, we ask you to call on the Florida Legislature to enact emergency measures to allow online, written or telephonic reporting of information during this time of crisis and others that will undoubtedly happen in the future.

We share a common goal of public safety and fostering compliance with the law. Ultimately, we want our members to remain safe and healthy, but we also need them to avoid incurring a felony.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
s/ Gail Colletta, President
The Florida Action Committee, Inc.
gail@floridaactioncommittee.org