

Who We Are

Florida Action Committee (FAC) is a non-profit 501(c4) organization.

The purpose of FAC is to educate the media, our legislators and the public about the facts surrounding sex offender issues. Our concern is for every citizen of Florida to enjoy a safer environment, particularly our children.

FAC works to reform the laws governing people required to register as sex offenders in Florida so that legislation is in accordance with empirical evidence and practices that truly protect the public.

FAC is also a support group for registered citizens and their families. We recognize the stigma and collateral consequences of the registry experienced by these families and we provide a safe place in which they can share their experiences and challenges as the family members of registrants.

FAC representatives are actively serving on Re-Entry Task Forces throughout Florida and offer support that officials and others may need access and understand available statistics, studies and research.

Whether you are a public official or a concerned citizen, we ask that you

Know the Facts!

Did You Know?

95% of sexual offenses are committed by someone who is NOT on a registry!

- There are more than 900,000 people on US Sex offender registries.
- Of the more than 76,000 people on Florida's sex offender registry, fewer than half are present in our communities.
- 90% of sexual assault victims knew their attacker prior to assault.
- 23% of contact sexual offenses against a minor are committed by a minor.
- **"Sex offenders" have among the lowest rates of recidivism of any category.** Only 5% are reconvicted of another sexual offense within three years (compared to 67% for all classes of crime).
- **There is ZERO evidence** (from a high volume of scientific and scholarly studies) that conclusively demonstrates that sex offender registries are effective in making our communities safer.
- Studies show that the recidivism rate **AFTER** the implementation of the sex offender laws is virtually the same or **HIGHER** than the recidivism rates **BEFORE** the existence of the laws, indicating that the laws are actually counterproductive.
- Studies consistently show that recidivism rates are lower when there is opportunity for stable housing, employment, education and community support.

Contact media@floridaactioncommittee.org for articles, studies or other references.

Sex Offender Laws ***Failing Victims and Floridians***



Florida Action Committee (FAC)
Public Safety Advocates & Educators

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What Florida Needs

1. Laws Supported by Evidence Based Research

Laws restricting, for example, where a registered citizen can live, visit, or travel are **unfounded and based on emotion rather than empirical evidence**. Expert research concludes, instead, that providing stable housing is key to reducing recidivism. FAC recommends the repeal of residency restrictions—based on evidence that restricting where registered citizens can live is counter-productive, wastes tax dollars, and **has no impact on public safety**.

2. Classification through Actuarial Risk Assessment

Florida must abandon the “one-size-fits-all” mindset and recognize that there are persons on the registry whose offenses were **non-violent, low-risk, and/or no-contact offenses that occurred decades ago**—and they do not pose a threat to public safety. Expert research concludes that actuary risk assessment tools can be used to determine risk outcome for registry removal criteria. FAC recommends that the registry be available only for Law Enforcement’s purpose of monitoring **high-risk offenders**.

3. Behavioral Change through Diversion Programs

Incarceration should be imposed only on those who pose a real risk in the community. First time, low-risk, non-violent, and/or no-contact offenders—particularly youthful offenders and emerging adults (age 16-25) who are assessed as a low-risk—should have the opportunity for a second chance through education and community service. FAC recommends alternatives to incarceration be considered for low risk, **non-violent offenders who deserve a second chance**.

4. Education through Prevention Programs

The recidivism rate among registered citizens is the lowest compared to other crimes, yet sexual offense arrests continue to rise. This is clear indication that Florida is focused on monitoring **those already on the registry who are not likely to re-offend**, instead of educating those who are not on the registry. Education is the key to prevention. FAC recommends that **preventive programs** be offered in schools, colleges, workplaces, and other public venues to stop the cycle of abuse, raise awareness of the consequences, identify support resources, and ultimately restore families.

What We Do

EDUCATE

The public has a very misguided opinion about people required to register. FAC combats the waves of false information given to the public with verifiable facts. Media outlets and politicians consistently use fear as a means of leveraging harsher laws and greater restrictions, which are generally ineffective and create a false sense of security—**thereby making the public less safe**.

LEGISLATE

FAC employs decades worth of scientific studies, empirical research and recommendations from industry experts to advocate for reform. We seek to replace our broken system with management programs that are effective from both a cost and public safety perspective. **Current laws do nothing to prevent sexual abuse**.

LITIGATE

Our Legal Committee provides legal advocacy services. We work with legal aid organizations and private attorneys to stay on top of legal issues affecting the registered population. We field questions related to legal requirements. We review and provide internal guidance on current and proposed laws in order to assist our Legislative and Education Committees in their roles. We support litigation on Constitutional issues.

Contrary to popular opinion, political rhetoric, and media hype, sex offenders have one of the LOWEST rates of recidivism of any category of offender. In fact, 95% of sex offenses are committed by individuals that are NOT on the Sex Offender Registry!

Visit www.floridaactioncommittee.com for more information about our organization.

What You Can Do

It is time to listen to the experts!

Our tax dollars are not being utilized effectively to manage registered citizens within a sustainable system of restorative justice that not only keeps the public safe, but also restores Floridians to productive lives—particularly those who exhibit stability and a desire to reform toward successful rehabilitation within the family and community.

It is time to revise current ineffective policies and provide education, treatment and resources so that first-time, low-risk offenders can be restored to productive lives in society; so that the focus of supervision can be placed on those who pose the highest risk to our communities; so that...

The Cycle of Sexual Abuse Can Be Stopped!

- Let your voice be heard! Contact legislators and officials and ask them to support evidence-based laws instead of “feel good” legislation that is counter-productive.
- Get involved in FAC and other organizations that support sensible legislation and programs that will help educate the public and officials about the facts surrounding sexual abuse, public safety, and sex offender management.
- Support organizations and programs that educate potential and former offenders about the harm caused by sexual abuse.

Visit www.floridaactioncommittee.com to receive weekly updates by email or to participate in our free monthly educational and advocacy conference calls.