

child feels safe to tell you anything, without fear of shame, ridicule or punishment.

A safe and supportive home environment, combined with clear instructions about what behavior is acceptable and what is not, will guide your child's actions and encourage your child to tell you if something improper happens.

Many parents warn their children not to talk to strangers. But more often than not, an abuser or abductor is known to the child. He or she can be a school bus driver, teacher, relative, neighbor, or family friend.

It is best to teach your child to avoid certain situations or actions. Children should know from an early age that some behavior isn't acceptable, and that they have the right to tell an adult to leave them alone.

Here are some specific rules you can teach your child:  
Stay away from people who call you near their car, even if they offer to take you somewhere exciting.

- If someone tries to take you away yell, "This person is not my father (or mother) and scream.
- If you get lost in a store, find another mom with children or go to the checkout counter. Don't wander around on your own.
- You don't have to keep secrets from your parents. No one can hurt your

parents or pets if you tell what happened.

- No one should touch you in the parts covered by your bathing suit, and you should not be asked to touch anyone there.
- Don't let anyone take your picture without permission from your parents or teacher.

### **Arm yourself with information**

The 900 line and Megan's Law CD-ROM are tools to protect you and your family.

### **Sex Offender Identification Line 1-900-463-0400**

For more information, contact your local law enforcement agency, or write:  
California Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Or view the Attorney General's Home Page:  
<http://www.caag.state.ca.us>

Permission is granted to reprint this brochure without any changes to the content.



California Department of Justice  
Attorney General's Office  
P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

# Megan's Law

---

## How To Obtain and Use Sex Offender Information

California  
Department of Justice

Daniel E. Lungren  
Attorney General

## Sex Offender information and how to use it

This brochure is to inform you of California's sex registration laws, how you can obtain sex offender information, and what you can do to protect yourself and your family.

In 1947, California implemented the nation's first sex offender registration program to help track the whereabouts of persons convicted of specific sex crimes. The registration requirements is for life unless the offender is relieved of this responsibility through legal processes.

By calling a "900" number, the public can learn if a person is a registered serious sex offender. In 1996, the law was expanded to include information on convicted serious sex offenders who have victimized adults.

In 1996, California enacted the "Megan's Law," which provides the public with photographs and descriptive information on serious sex offenders residing in California who have been convicted of committing sex crimes and are required to register their whereabouts with local law enforcement.

## How to obtain sex offender information

**Sex Offender Identification Line -**  
The Sex Offender Identification Line is a telephone service for use by the public and organizations to identify serious sex offenders. The cost for calling the **1-900-463-0400** line is a flat rate of \$10 for information on up to two individuals.

To use the 900 line, you must be at least 18 years of age, and you must know the following information about the person you are checking:

- name of person, AND one of the following:
- an exact address; or
- exact date of birth, or
- California driver's license, identification number or social security number.

If you only know the person's name, you will need to provide a complete description of the person.

**Megan's Law CD-ROM -** Provides another means of obtaining information on California's more than 64,000 serious sex offenders. A CD-ROM, now available for public viewing, provides the following information about serious sex offenders: registrant's name; aliases;

photograph (if available); sex; physical description, including scars, marks, tattoos; registered sex offense; county of residence; and ZIP code (based on last registration).

To view the CD-ROM you must:

- be 18 years of age or older;
- provide a California driver's license or identification card;
- sign a statement that you are not a registered sex offender; that you understand the purpose of the release of information is for the public to protect themselves and their children from sex offenders; and that it is illegal to use the information to harass, discriminate or commit a crime against any registrant;
- state a distinct purpose for viewing the CD-ROM, if required by local law enforcement.

Contact your local law enforcement agency to obtain information on where and when you can view the CD-ROM.

**Community Notification -** You may also receive information about serious sex offenders through your local law enforcement agency or your neighborhood school.

## Use of this information

The release of this information to the public is a means of assuring public protection and not to punish the offender. The information may not be used to harass the offender or commit any crime against the offender. Public safety is best served when offenders are not concealing their location to avoid harassment.

## Protecting yourself and your family

You can reduce the risk to yourself and your family by taking simple precautions:

- Practice good security - at home, at the office, and in your vehicle.
- Be alert to locations and situations that make you and your family vulnerable to crime, and be aware of the people around you and your family.
- Educate yourself on crime prevention tactics. For assistance, contact your local law enforcement agency or the Crime and Violence Prevention Center of the California Attorney General's Office.

Teach your children to avoid situations that put them in danger of abuse, molestation or abduction. Help protect your child by establishing a home environment where your