



Department of Justice

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LAUNCHES NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER PUBLIC REGISTRY SITE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales today announced the expedited design and delivery of a national registry Web site to allow citizens to search already existing public state and territory sex offender registries. The initiative will provide parents and other concerned citizens with immediate access to sex offender information beyond their own streets or states, all from a single search.

“I see the powerful value of the right information being available at the right time to prevent many crimes from ever taking place,” said Attorney General Gonzales. “Real-time access to public registry information can offer parents, grandparents, and concerned citizens the ability to protect children by identifying sex offenders nationwide through a single search from their home computer, or even a local library with Internet access.”

The National Sex Offender Public Registry (NSOPR) uses the Internet to search for and display public sex offender data from state and territory registries. The technology for NSOPR is both time- and cost-effective. Web services and the Department of Justice’s Global Justice eXtensible Markup Language (XML) common computer language will establish a link between existing state and territory public sex offender registries. The link then allows data from different hardware and software systems to be recognized and shown through the national search site. The search will deliver results based on a name, zip code, geographical area, or other query.

All but two states currently have public sex offender registries available. The Department of Justice will work with states and territories to link their public registries, at no cost, to the national search site. The first goal of NSOPR is to have at least 20 states participating and the site available for public searches in 60 days. NSOPR will provide an opportunity for all states and territories to participate in an unprecedented public safety resource by sharing comprehensive, free-of-charge public sex offender data with citizens nationwide.

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