

Registrant FAQ

Q: Who is required to register?

A: Those who are convicted of, adjudicated or committed for a violation, solicitation, conspiracy or attempt to commit a violation of any registerable offense on or after 12/25/1993 must register. This also includes people who have been in prison, on probation or parole, or in a mental or county correctional institution since 12/25/93 for a registerable offense.

People who are court ordered to register for any discretionary, registerable offense.

Additionally, the following sex offenders are required to register in Wisconsin if they live, work, or attend school in Wisconsin:

- Any sex offender who is required to register with another state/jurisdiction, including juveniles.
- Any sex offender convicted in a military, tribal, or federal court.
- Any sex offender who has been convicted in another state of an offense comparable to one of Wisconsin's registerable offenses, including juveniles.
- Any juvenile who is on supervision and enters Wisconsin under the Interstate Compact Agreement.

Please consult WI Statute [301.45](#) for a detailed description of the specific circumstances that require registration.

Q: What convictions require registration?

A: Please see WI State Statute [301.45](#)

Q: How long will I have to register?

Changes in the law may extend or reduce the length of time you are required to register.

A: However, under Wisconsin Statute [301.45](#), you are required to register for 15 years or lifetime, based on your statute of conviction. All cases are reviewed periodically throughout your registration period. Your registration begins at conviction. 15-year registration terms begin at your supervision discharge date.

The court can order lifetime registration.

Q: What am I required to report to the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry (SOR)?

You are required to report:

- All addresses, employment, school, volunteering, and internet identifiers no later than 10 days after the change. If you are on supervision, please consult with your agent for guidance. (If on parole or extended supervision update must be reported prior to the change or within 24 hours if the change was unexpected).
- When you move to a new address within 10 days of the first night you stay at your new address. Remember to provide any apartment number, lot number, or trailer number.
- Any change in residence status, such as becoming homeless, no later than 10 days after you leave the last address you reported to the Registry.
- When you become incarcerated in a Wisconsin county jail or out-of-state prison or jail. You must also report when released from incarceration.
- When you begin a new job or leave a job. If you are receiving compensation in any way, not just paid with money, this should be reported as a job. It is important to report the physical location of where you go to work.
- When you begin volunteering or stop volunteering.
- When you begin going to school or stop going to school. This includes online classes or attending classes on campus.
- When you use or create any internet-related accounts such as but not limited to email, instant messaging, and social networking for personal use (accounts where you have a login ID, Profile name or User ID and/or a password). Do not report passwords.
- When you create or maintain any websites.

Q: How can I report changes to the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry?

- Call the 24 hour Assistant (recording) 888-963-3363.
- Call staff during business hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday- Friday at 608-240-5830. If you leave a message, leave your DOC number, date of birth and spell your last name. Please speak slowly and clearly and be aware of any background noise that may make it difficult to hear your message.
- Email changes to DOCBOPADMIN@Wisconsin.gov
- Fax to 608-240-3355
- Mail a note to Wisconsin DOC SOR, PO Box 7925, Madison, WI 53707-7925.
- Visit the Registrant Portal at www.SORWI.gov to verify your information electronically. (See Registrant Portal FAQ's in this document for more details).

Q: What is the penalty for failing to comply with the WI Sex Offender Registry?

A: Failing to report or falsifying information may lead to criminal prosecution. The penalty for noncompliance is up to a \$10,000 fine and/or up to 6 years in prison, or both. WI Statute [301.45\(6\)\(a\)\(2\)](#)

Q: How often will I get a registration letter?

A: Registration letters can be mailed at any time to verify information. If you receive correspondence from the Sex Offender Registry you are required to return it. At a minimum, you will be mailed an annual registration letter every year on your birthday or the next business day. You will also be mailed a registration letter each time you change your primary address. If you have been committed under the Sexually Violent Persons Act ([Chapter 980](#)), you will be mailed a registration letter every 90 days, for life.

Additionally, you can be subject to periodic, random verifications checks conducted by SOR staff and/or law enforcement.

Q: What happens when I report a new address to the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry?

A: When you report a new address, you should receive a registration letter within 8 business days of reporting the new address. If you haven't received a letter in 8 business days, contact the Sex Offender Registry to discuss possible delivery problems.

You must answer all questions on the registration letter, make corrections, provide any new information, sign and mail the letter back to Wisconsin DOC SOR, PO Box 7925, Madison, WI 53707-7925. You may also return the letter via email to DOCBOPADMIN@wisconsin.gov or by fax to 608-240-3355. OR You may submit your information electronically using your registrant passcode and accessing the WI DOC SOR Registrant Portal on the WI DOC SOR website at www.SORWI.gov. Instructions are listed in the Registrant Portal. (See Registrant Portal FAQ in this document for more details).

When you report a change of address, it is a good idea to file a change of address form with the United States Postal Service. You may get a card from your mail carrier or post office lobby and then take the completed form to the post office or you may go online to USPS.com and fill out a change of address online for a small fee.

You can also write your name on the inside flap of the mailbox so the mail carrier knows it is ok to deliver your mail to that box.

Sex Offender Registry mail is not like regular mail, it is RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED, so completing a change of address with the United States Postal Service and putting your name somewhere on the mailbox will ensure the best delivery results.

Q: How do I maintain compliance if I'm homeless?

A: Contact the Sex Offender Registry to report a change of address and indicate that you are homeless. You will be required to call the Sex Offender Registry every 7 days to report the locations you stayed each night and your plan for the upcoming week until you obtain a permanent physical residence. Whereabouts must include the complete addresses of any homes, hotels, motels, or shelters where you stay. If you are staying outside, you must provide the nearest street locations or landmarks with city, state and zip code. It may be helpful to keep a record in a notebook of where you stay each night.

If you are on GPS, you must still call every week.

If you are on supervision and homeless, please consult with your agent for direction.

Q: I am currently non-compliant, what should I do?

A: Contact the Sex Offender Registry to work on resolving the issues making you non-compliant. If you have already been referred and/or have new charges issued for a Sex Offender Registry violation, you will need to work with the District Attorney's Office or contact a defense attorney/ public defender.

Q: As a registered sex offender in the state of WI what other WI statutes should I be aware of?

School Property: Wisconsin State Statute [301.475](#) requires all registered sex offenders to notify the school district administrator of their status as a registered sex offender prior to being on school property for any school sponsored event. You must also obtain approval from your Agent if you are on supervision with the Department of Corrections.

Working with Children: Wisconsin State Statute [948.13](#) prohibits registered sex offenders convicted of a serious child sex offense from working or volunteering, paid or unpaid, in a position that requires them to work or interact primarily and directly with children under the age of 16. Types of activities include: teaching children, child care, youth counseling, youth organizations, coaching children, park or playground recreation working, or school bus driving.

Name Changes: Wisconsin State Statute [301.47](#) prohibits all registered sex offenders from changing their first or last name or identifying themselves by a name unless that name is one by which the person is identified with the Department of Corrections.

Internet Identifiers: Wisconsin State Statute [301.45\(2\)\(a\)6m](#) requires all registered sex offenders to report the name or number of every email account the person uses, the internet address of every website the person creates or maintains, every internet user name the person uses, and the name and internet address of every public or private internet profile the person creates, uses, or maintains for their personal, family, or household use.

Q: Can I be removed from the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry early?

A: The Sex Offender Registry has no authority to remove anyone from the registry.

There are legal avenues, in certain circumstances, to accomplish removal from the sex offender registry. This would have to be pursued in the court of conviction. You can contact the clerk of courts office in the county of conviction or a criminal law attorney to find out your legal options.

The sections of WI Statute [301.45](#) that address early removal are as follows: [301.45\(1m\)](#); [301.45\(1p\)](#); [301.45\(5\)](#).

Q: Is there a fee for the Sex Offender Registry?

A: There is an annual registration fee of \$100 per year to help offset the cost of maintaining the registry per Statute [301.45\(10\)](#). Registration fees begin at conviction, even if incarcerated for a period of time. The fee is \$100 no matter if you were required to register for a full year or a partial year.

You will receive a payment coupon in July at the beginning of each fiscal year (fiscal year is July 1 to June 30). To be certain your payment is credited to the correct account, return the payment coupon with your payment. If you lose your payment coupon, contact the Sex Offender Registry to request another coupon.

No payment should be sent directly to the Sex Offender Registry. Payments must be mailed to the address on the payment coupon.

Payments cannot be made online or over the phone. The coupon allows you to pay by credit card, debit card or money order. Personal checks are NOT accepted.

Payment plans will not be negotiated, but you may send several payments until you have paid the entire \$100 fee. You may copy your payment coupon and send it with each payment.

If the fee is not paid in full, a tax intercept may be filed with the IRS.

EXCEPTION: Those required to register for a juvenile adjudication will not be billed.

Q: I am a Sex Offender Registrant in another state and want to move to Wisconsin. What do I need to do?

A: If you are on active supervision, please consult your Agent/PO regarding Interstate Compact rules. If you are not on active supervision, please contact the WI Sex Offender Registry and inform them you are registered in another state and plan to move to Wisconsin. You will be required to meet with a Sex Offender Registry Specialist upon arrival to complete paperwork and have your photograph taken. Your offense history will be reviewed as Wisconsin State Statutes require a Special Bulletin Notification and GPS Tracking for certain registered sex offenders.

Q: I am a Sex Offender Registrant in another state and want to work and/ or attend school in Wisconsin. What do I need to do?

A: If you are on active supervision, please consult your Agent/PO regarding Interstate Compact rules. If you are not on active supervision, please contact the WI Sex offender Registry and inform them you are registered in another state and plan to work or go to school in Wisconsin. You will need to register with the State of Wisconsin and meet with a registration specialist within 10 days of beginning your new job or starting school.

Q: I am a Sex Offender Registrant in another state and want to visit Wisconsin. What do I need to do?

A: If you are on active supervision, please consult your Agent/PO regarding Interstate Compact rules. If you are not on active supervision, please contact the WI Sex Offender Registry and inform them you are registered in another state and plan to visit Wisconsin. You will need to provide your planned arrival and departure dates as well as the address where you will be staying during your visit. Depending on the length of your visit, you may need to register with the State of Wisconsin and meet with a Registration Specialist upon arrival to complete paperwork and have your photograph taken. Your offense history will be reviewed as Wisconsin State Statutes require a Special Bulletin Notification and GPS Tracking for certain registered sex offenders.

Q: I am a WI registrant planning to move to another state. What do I need to do?

A: Contact the WI Sex Offender Registry and inform them of your plans to move out of state. If your qualifying sex offense is a Wisconsin conviction, you will continue to register in Wisconsin despite living in another state or country. This means you will need to continue to report changes to the WI Sex Offender Registry and return any registration letters mailed to you.

You will also need to contact the Sex Offender Registry in your destination state within 72 hours, as you may also be required to register in the other state. It is recommended you contact the other state prior to leaving to check their requirements or you may face federal and/or state charges. It is suggested you report to local law enforcement immediately upon your arrival and indicate you are a registered sex offender in WI and have moved to their state.

If you are on Lifetime GPS Tracking, please provide notice at least 2 business days prior to moving to coordinate removal of your GPS tracking unit. If you are on supervision with the Department of Corrections, you will first need to work with your Agent to obtain approval via the Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System (ICOTS).

Because you were convicted in Wisconsin, you will continue to register in Wisconsin no matter where you live, work or attend school. You should report your move within 10 days of leaving your last reported address.

Q: I am a juvenile registrant in another state and wish to move to WI. What do I need to do?

A: If you are on active supervision, you will be required to register. You may contact Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System (ICOTS) at 608-240-5388 with questions.

All other juveniles, please contact WI SOR at 608-240-5830 for assistance.

Q: Can I travel out of the country?

A: You cannot leave the United States if you are on any form of supervision with the Department of Corrections; unless approved by the court.

If you are no longer on supervision, you must inform the Sex Offender Registry of your travel plans at least 21 days prior to travel per 42 USC 16914. You will be required to provide your travel itinerary, passport number, flight information, and dates of travel. Please be aware it will be your destination country's decision whether to allow you entry into their country. It is recommended you contact the United States Embassy in your destination country, before you make travel plans, to determine whether you will be allowed entry. The Sex Offender Registry/Department of Justice does not have any authority in determining whether you will be allowed entry into another country.

Q: Am I required to provide a photo to the WI Sex Offender Registry?

A: Per Wisconsin State Statute, [301.45\(2\)\(f\)](#), you are required to maintain an updated photograph with the Sex Offender Registry. Photographs are typically updated every two years if you are not on supervision. You will receive a mailed notice indicating the date and location of your photo appointment. If you have a conflict with the scheduled date, contact your Sex Offender Registry Specialist prior to the scheduled session to reschedule. If you have significant changes in your appearance, contact the Sex Offender Registry to request a photo appointment. If you are on supervision, your Agent will obtain an updated photograph for the Sex Offender Registry.

Q: What happens at my registration end date?

A: If you are required to register for less than lifetime, your registration end date will be calculated. On that date, you will be mailed a letter indicating you are no longer required to register, your information will no longer appear on the public website and you will no longer be required to report changes to the registry.

Q: How do I find out if a town, city or village I want to move to has sex offender residency restrictions?

A: Contact local law enforcement before moving to find out if there are any such restrictions in the area where you wish to live.

If you are on supervision, you must consult with your Agent who will have to approve the move and the proposed address.

Q: Can I go to a park?

A: The WI SOR does not place restrictions on where a registrant is allowed to go. It is suggested you contact the local municipality of the location you wish to go to find out if there are any restrictions.

If you are on supervision, you must consult with your Agent.

Q: Who should I contact with concerns about my Global Positioning System (GPS) device?

A: If you are having equipment problems or need your GPS removed in an emergency situation such as for a medical procedure, call the Monitoring Center at 800-978-0078.

If you are on supervision, contact your Agent with any questions.

If you are not on supervision, contact the Sex Offender Registry and ask to speak with a GPS Specialist.

[GPS Brochure](#)

What You Need to Know: Reporting Requirements for Sex Offender Registration in WI

[What You Need To Know Brochure](#)

Sex Offender Registration Requirements

Please see WI State Statute [301.45](#)

FAQs for 2023 WI Act 254

Q: I heard that a new law was recently passed which could affect sex offender registrants and those who are required to be on Lifetime GPS tracking. What is that about?

A: On March 31, 2024, legislation was enacted which defined in law the phrase “on two or more separate occasions” as it relates to sex offender registration and notification under Wisconsin Statutes 301.45 and 301.46. In 2017, the Attorney General issued an opinion (OAG-02-17), which concluded that the phrase referred to multiple convictions, regardless of whether they were part of the same proceeding, occurred on the same date, or were included in the same criminal complaint. 2023 Wisconsin Act 254 codifies the Attorney General opinion and also apply it to findings of not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect.

The new law is retroactive to anyone meeting certain criteria after September 2, 2017. The Wisconsin Department of Corrections must identify persons who were released from the registry requirements or were not subject to the lifetime tracking requirement before the bill took effect, but who would have been subject to the pertinent requirement had the law been in effect. Per the legislation, no later than 60 days after the law takes effect, the Department of Corrections must notify these persons that they must register as sex offenders for life or be subject to lifetime tracking. Persons who are notified that they must be on GPS or register for life have 30 days after being notified to have GPS installed and/or register or are guilty of a Class H felony.

Q: How will I know if I am affected by this new law?

A: The WI DOC Sex Offender Registry identifies persons who are affected by 2023 WI Act 254 and will notify those who are affected. If the law applies to you, the Registry will notify you by mail if it results in a change in your registration requirements.

Q: Why have I received notice that I am now required to register/be subject to SBN/GPS?

A: You have been identified as someone who was directly impacted by the new law. Because of the requirements specific to how convictions are counted, it has been determined you will now be required to register for life, require the re-installation of GPS monitoring and/or have a Special Bulletin Notification generated. Any challenges to this law need to occur in a court of law, through legal processing. The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry is not able to provide you legal advice in this matter. It is recommended you seek legal assistance if you have further questions or challenges.

Q: I thought the Supreme Court overturned AG-02-17? How can the DOC turn around and reapply the same criteria?

A: The Wisconsin Department of Corrections must comply with the laws passed by the state legislature and signed into law by the Governor. Any challenges to this new law need to occur in a court of law, through legal processing. The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry is not able to provide you legal advice in this matter. It is recommended you seek legal assistance if you have further questions or challenges.

Q: What are the consequences if I refuse to comply with the new law requirements?

A: The Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry is required to enact and enforce laws specific to the Sex Offender Registry. Refusal to comply with those requirements under Wisconsin State Statute 301.45, 301.46, 301.48 and other corresponding laws may result in a referral to the local District Attorney's Office for charges and prosecution. The penalty for registry noncompliance is up to a \$10,000 fine and/or up to 6 years in prison, or both. The penalty for GPS refusal/tamper is up to a \$10,000 fine and/or up to 3.5 years in prison, or both.

Q: What is the timeframe I have to comply with the new law?

A: No later than 60 days after the law takes effect, DOC must notify individuals impacted by the new law that they must register as sex offenders or be subject to lifetime tracking. Under the bill, persons who are notified that they must register have 30 days after being notified to register or they are guilty of a Class H felony.

Q: How can I report changes to the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry?

A: • Call the 24 hour Assistant (recording) 888-963-3363.

• Call staff during business hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday- Friday at 608-240-5830. If you leave a message, leave your DOC number, date of birth and spell your last name. Please speak slowly and clearly and be aware of any background noise that may make it difficult to hear your message.

• Email changes to DOCBOPADMIN@Wisconsin.gov • Fax to 608-240-3355

• Mail a note to Wisconsin DOC SOR, PO Box 7925, Madison, WI 53707-7925.

• Visit the Registrant Portal at www.SORWI.gov to verify your information electronically. (See Registrant Portal FAQ's in this document for more details).

Q: Can I be removed from the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry early?

A: The Sex Offender Registry has no authority to remove anyone from the registry. There are legal avenues, in certain circumstances, to accomplish removal from the sex offender registry. This would have to be pursued in the court of conviction.

Q: How do I get GPS taken off?

A: If you have been convicted, or found not guilty or not responsible by reason of mental disease or defect for multiple counts of a sexual offense, as described in 2023 WI Act 254, you are required to comply with GPS tracking for your lifetime, while a resident of Wisconsin, per WI Statute 301.48(2)(a)7. If you are on active Probation or Parole supervision at this time, an agent cannot remove your GPS requirements. A person subject to lifetime GPS tracking under WI Statute 301.48 may petition the court to be removed from the requirement no earlier than 20 years after the date on which the lifetime GPS tracking began.

Q: I was required to register for 2 or more counts with one court case prior to September 2, 2017. The conviction was before that date. If the law says this applies to determinations made on September 2, 2017, why am I now required to register for life?

Answer: 2023 WI Act 254 applies to determinations made on or after September 2, 2017, regarding whether a person has been convicted or found not guilty on 2 or more separate occasions. The law looks at the date of the determination and not the date of the conviction.

REGISTRANT PORTAL FOR REGISTRANTS FAQ's

Q: What is the Registrant Portal?

A: The Registrant Portal is a web-based application which allows registrants to update and confirm their required information with WI SOR, using any device with internet capability, by entering a unique numeric passcode printed on the Registration Letter received in the mail.

Q: Where can I access the Registrant Portal?

A: The Registrant Portal is located at www.SORWI.gov. This Registrant Portal can be accessed by computer, tablet or mobile phone.

Q: Do I need to download software or app on my mobile phone to use the Registrant Portal?

A: No. The Registrant Portal does not require any additional software or app to use.

Q: How does the Registrant Portal work?

A: You will continue to receive a registration confirmation letter annually. Beginning (02/02/2022), you will receive a Registrant Portal Passcode on that letter. By using www.SORWI.gov, you will be able to access the Registrant Portal. You will be asked to verify your provided information and update any information right in the Registrant Portal.

Q: Do I have to use the Registrant Portal?

A: No, the Registrant Portal is another option for registrants to maintain their compliance. Registration letters may continue to be filled out and returned to Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry via the US Postal Service.

Q: If I use the Registrant Portal, will I still need to fill out and return my Registration letter?

A: No, you may either confirm your information through the return of the Registration letter or the Registrant Portal. Just pick one. **Don't do both.**

Q: How long will this Registrant Portal Passcode work?

A: The issued code will be good for one year unless an address change is reported. This will trigger a new registration letter with a new passcode that is mailed to the newly reported address. The newly issued letter will have a new Registrant Portal Passcode which will then be good for one year or until a new address is reported and/or a new Registration Letter is generated/mailed.

Q: Can I use the Registrant Portal to update my information?

A: Yes, the latest Registrant Portal Passcode can be used to update your required information within the Registrant Portal. Information changes regarding residence, employment, schooling, volunteer work, vehicle information, email accounts and internet identifiers should be reported within 10 days of the change.

Q: What happens if I lose my registration letter with Passcode?

A: You are able to get the passcode by calling SOR at 608-240-5830 or your specialist.

Q: How will I know if my information was received through the Registrant Portal?

A: Upon completion and verifying/updating all sections of the Registrant Portal, you will see a screen that informs you that your information was submitted to the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry. If there are any issues with your submission, a SOR staff member will contact you to explain what information

was not confirmed and how you can make the changes. It may take up to 3 business days for changes entered within the portal to be reflected on the Sex Offender Registry Public Website.

Q: What if the Registrant Portal is unavailable?

A: At times, the Registrant Portal may be down for maintenance or upgrades to the software. A message will be posted on the Registrant Portal prior to this occurring. You may wait until the following day to check the status of the Registrant Portal or fill out the paper copy of the registration letter received and mail it back to the Registry.

Q: Will I be charged anything for using the Registrant Portal?

A: Individuals should check their internet and/or phone carrier provider to determine if there would be any impact to their existing plan. Standard data rates may apply.

Q: I have to return letters every 90 days. Will I get a new code on each letter?

A: Yes.

Q: If I don't have a computer, can I access someone else's device?

A: If you are currently under DOC supervision, please consult your agent of record for approval. If you are off supervision, please make sure you have permission to use any device that isn't yours.

Q: What if I don't have permission to use the internet? How do I access the Registrant Portal?

A: If you are currently under DOC supervision, please consult your agent of record to discuss. You can always use the current method of maintaining compliance by returning the hard copy letter through the US Postal Service.

Q: Who do I contact if having technical or content questions?

A: SOR staff and DOC agents may be able to answer your questions related to content. If you are having technical issues, please consult the Registrant Portal for any announced outages or scheduled maintenance. Otherwise, this may be a carrier or internet provider issue which could be resolved by contacting them.

