

## **34 U.S.C.**

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Title 34 - CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Subtitle II - Protection of Children and Other Persons

CHAPTER 209 - CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFETY

SUBCHAPTER I - SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION

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## **SUBCHAPTER I—SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION**

### **§20901. Declaration of purpose**

In order to protect the public from sex offenders and offenders against children, and in response to the vicious attacks by violent predators against the victims listed below, Congress in this chapter establishes a comprehensive national system for the registration of those offenders:

(1) Jacob Wetterling, who was 11 years old, was abducted in 1989 in Minnesota, and remains missing.

(2) Megan Nicole Kanka, who was 7 years old, was abducted, sexually assaulted, and murdered in 1994, in New Jersey.

(3) Pam Lychner, who was 31 years old, was attacked by a career offender in Houston, Texas.

(4) Jetseta Gage, who was 10 years old, was kidnapped, sexually assaulted, and murdered in 2005, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

(5) Dru Sjodin, who was 22 years old, was sexually assaulted and murdered in 2003, in North Dakota.

(6) Jessica Lunsford, who was 9 years old, was abducted, sexually assaulted, buried alive, and murdered in 2005, in Homosassa, Florida.

(7) Sarah Lunde, who was 13 years old, was strangled and murdered in 2005, in Ruskin, Florida.

(8) Amie Zyla, who was 8 years old, was sexually assaulted in 1996 by a juvenile offender in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and has become an advocate for child victims and protection of children from juvenile sex offenders.

(9) Christy Ann Fornoff, who was 13 years old, was abducted, sexually assaulted, and murdered in 1984, in Tempe, Arizona.

(10) Alexandra Nicole Zapp, who was 30 years old, was brutally attacked and murdered in a public restroom by a repeat sex offender in 2002, in Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

(11) Polly Klaas, who was 12 years old, was abducted, sexually assaulted, and murdered in 1993 by a career offender in California.

(12) Jimmy Ryce, who was 9 years old, was kidnapped and murdered in Florida on September 11, 1995.

(13) Carlie Brucia, who was 11 years old, was abducted and murdered in Florida in February, 2004.

(14) Amanda Brown, who was 7 years old, was abducted and murdered in Florida in 1998.

(15) Elizabeth Smart, who was 14 years old, was abducted in Salt Lake City, Utah in June 2002.

(16) Molly Bish, who was 16 years old, was abducted in 2000 while working as a lifeguard in Warren, Massachusetts, where her remains were found 3 years later.

(17) Samantha Runnion, who was 5 years old, was abducted, sexually assaulted, and murdered in California on July 15, 2002.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §102, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590.)

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 587, known as the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

#### **CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16901 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

### **§20902. Establishment of program**

This chapter establishes the Jacob Wetterling, Megan Nicole Kanka, and Pam Lychner Sex Offender Registration and Notification Program.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §103, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 591.)

#### **REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 587, known as the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

#### **CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16902 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

### **§20903. Tribal registry**

#### **(1) Establishment**

The Attorney General shall contract with any interested Indian tribe, tribal organization, or tribal nonprofit organization to develop and maintain—

(A) a national tribal sex offender registry; and

(B) a tribal protection order registry containing civil and criminal orders of protection issued by Indian tribes and participating jurisdictions.

#### **(2) Authorization of appropriations**

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, to remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 109–162, title IX, §905(b), Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 3080; Pub. L. 113–4, title IX, §907(b), Mar. 7, 2013, 127 Stat. 125.)

#### **CODIFICATION**

Section is comprised of subsec. (b) of section 905 of Pub. L. 109–162. Subsec. (a) of section 905 of Pub. L. 109–162 amended section 534 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

Section was enacted as part of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, and not as part of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act which comprises this subchapter, or as part of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 which comprises this chapter.

Section was formerly classified as a note under section 534 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

**2013**—Par. (2). Pub. L. 113–4 substituted "fiscal years 2014 through 2018" for "fiscal years 2007 through 2011".

## **§20911. Relevant definitions, including Amie Zyla expansion of sex offender definition and expanded inclusion of child predators**

In this subchapter the following definitions apply:

### **(1) Sex offender**

The term "sex offender" means an individual who was convicted of a sex offense.

### **(2) Tier I sex offender**

The term "tier I sex offender" means a sex offender other than a tier II or tier III sex offender.

### **(3) Tier II sex offender**

The term "tier II sex offender" means a sex offender other than a tier III sex offender whose offense is punishable by imprisonment for more than 1 year and—

(A) is comparable to or more severe than the following offenses, when committed against a minor, or an attempt or conspiracy to commit such an offense against a minor:

- (i) sex trafficking (as described in section 1591 of title 18);
- (ii) coercion and enticement (as described in section 2422(b) of title 18);
- (iii) transportation with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity (as described in section 2423(a) <sup>1</sup> of title 18);
- (iv) abusive sexual contact (as described in section 2244 of title 18);

(B) involves—

- (i) use of a minor in a sexual performance;
- (ii) solicitation of a minor to practice prostitution; or
- (iii) production or distribution of child pornography; or

(C) occurs after the offender becomes a tier I sex offender.

### **(4) Tier III sex offender**

The term "tier III sex offender" means a sex offender whose offense is punishable by imprisonment for more than 1 year and—

(A) is comparable to or more severe than the following offenses, or an attempt or conspiracy to commit such an offense:

- (i) aggravated sexual abuse or sexual abuse (as described in sections 2241 and 2242 of title 18); or
- (ii) abusive sexual contact (as described in section 2244 of title 18) against a minor who has not attained the age of 13 years;

(B) involves kidnapping of a minor (unless committed by a parent or guardian); or

(C) occurs after the offender becomes a tier II sex offender.

### **(5) Amie Zyla expansion of sex offense definition**

#### **(A) Generally**

Except as limited by subparagraph (B) or (C), the term "sex offense" means—

- (i) a criminal offense that has an element involving a sexual act or sexual contact with another;
- (ii) a criminal offense that is a specified offense against a minor;
- (iii) a Federal offense (including an offense prosecuted under section 1152 or 1153 of title 18) under section 1591, or chapter 109A, 110 (other than section 2257, 2257A, or 2258), or 117, of title 18;
- (iv) a military offense specified by the Secretary of Defense under section 115(a)(8)(C)(i) of Public Law 105–119 (10 U.S.C. 951 note); or
- (v) an attempt or conspiracy to commit an offense described in clauses (i) through (iv).

**(B) Foreign convictions**

A foreign conviction is not a sex offense for the purposes of this subchapter if it was not obtained with sufficient safeguards for fundamental fairness and due process for the accused under guidelines or regulations established under section 20912 of this title.

**(C) Offenses involving consensual sexual conduct**

An offense involving consensual sexual conduct is not a sex offense for the purposes of this subchapter if the victim was an adult, unless the adult was under the custodial authority of the offender at the time of the offense, or if the victim was at least 13 years old and the offender was not more than 4 years older than the victim.

**(6) Criminal offense**

The term "criminal offense" means a State, local, tribal, foreign, or military offense (to the extent specified by the Secretary of Defense under section 115(a)(8)(C)(i) of Public Law 105–119 (10 U.S.C. 951 note)) or other criminal offense.

**(7) Expansion of definition of "specified offense against a minor" to include all offenses by child predators**

The term "specified offense against a minor" means an offense against a minor that involves any of the following:

- (A) An offense (unless committed by a parent or guardian) involving kidnapping.
- (B) An offense (unless committed by a parent or guardian) involving false imprisonment.
- (C) Solicitation to engage in sexual conduct.
- (D) Use in a sexual performance.
- (E) Solicitation to practice prostitution.
- (F) Video voyeurism as described in section 1801 of title 18.
- (G) Possession, production, or distribution of child pornography.
- (H) Criminal sexual conduct involving a minor, or the use of the Internet to facilitate or attempt such conduct.
- (I) Any conduct that by its nature is a sex offense against a minor.

**(8) Convicted as including certain juvenile adjudications**

The term "convicted" or a variant thereof, used with respect to a sex offense, includes adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile for that offense, but only if the offender is 14 years of age or older at the time of the offense and the offense adjudicated was comparable to or more severe than aggravated sexual abuse (as described in section 2241 of title 18), or was an attempt or conspiracy to commit such an offense.

**(9) Sex offender registry**

The term "sex offender registry" means a registry of sex offenders, and a notification program, maintained by a jurisdiction.

**(10) Jurisdiction**

The term "jurisdiction" means any of the following:

- (A) A State.
- (B) The District of Columbia.
- (C) The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- (D) Guam.
- (E) American Samoa.
- (F) The Northern Mariana Islands.
- (G) The United States Virgin Islands.
- (H) To the extent provided and subject to the requirements of section 20929 of this title, a federally recognized Indian tribe.

**(11) Student**

The term "student" means an individual who enrolls in or attends an educational institution, including (whether public or private) a secondary school, trade or professional school, and

institution of higher education.

**(12) Employee**

The term "employee" includes an individual who is self-employed or works for any other entity, whether compensated or not.

**(13) Resides**

The term "resides" means, with respect to an individual, the location of the individual's home or other place where the individual habitually lives.

**(14) Minor**

The term "minor" means an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §111, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 591.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This subchapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16911 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

*[1 So in original. The second closing parenthesis probably should follow "18".](#)*

**§20912. Registry requirements for jurisdictions**

**(a) Jurisdiction to maintain a registry**

Each jurisdiction shall maintain a jurisdiction-wide sex offender registry conforming to the requirements of this subchapter.

**(b) Guidelines and regulations**

The Attorney General shall issue guidelines and regulations to interpret and implement this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §112, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 593.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This subchapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16912 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**§20913. Registry requirements for sex offenders**

**(a) In general**

A sex offender shall register, and keep the registration current, in each jurisdiction where the offender resides, where the offender is an employee, and where the offender is a student. For initial registration purposes only, a sex offender shall also register in the jurisdiction in which convicted if such jurisdiction is different from the jurisdiction of residence.

**(b) Initial registration**

The sex offender shall initially register—

(1) before completing a sentence of imprisonment with respect to the offense giving rise to the registration requirement; or

(2) not later than 3 business days after being sentenced for that offense, if the sex offender is not sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

**(c) Keeping the registration current**

A sex offender shall, not later than 3 business days after each change of name, residence, employment, or student status, appear in person in at least 1 jurisdiction involved pursuant to subsection (a) and inform that jurisdiction of all changes in the information required for that offender in the sex offender registry. That jurisdiction shall immediately provide that information to all other jurisdictions in which the offender is required to register.

**(d) Initial registration of sex offenders unable to comply with subsection (b)**

The Attorney General shall have the authority to specify the applicability of the requirements of this subchapter to sex offenders convicted before the enactment of this chapter or its implementation in a particular jurisdiction, and to prescribe rules for the registration of any such sex offenders and for other categories of sex offenders who are unable to comply with subsection (b).

**(e) State penalty for failure to comply**

Each jurisdiction, other than a Federally recognized Indian tribe, shall provide a criminal penalty that includes a maximum term of imprisonment that is greater than 1 year for the failure of a sex offender to comply with the requirements of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §113, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 593.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This subchapter, referred to in subsecs. (d) and (e), was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (d), was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 587, known as the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, which was approved July 27, 2006. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16913 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**§20914. Information required in registration**

**(a) Provided by the offender**

The sex offender shall provide the following information to the appropriate official for inclusion in the sex offender registry:

(1) The name of the sex offender (including any alias used by the individual).

(2) The Social Security number of the sex offender.

(3) The address of each residence at which the sex offender resides or will reside.

(4) The name and address of any place where the sex offender is an employee or will be an employee.

(5) The name and address of any place where the sex offender is a student or will be a student.

(6) The license plate number and a description of any vehicle owned or operated by the sex offender.

(7) Information relating to intended travel of the sex offender outside the United States, including any anticipated dates and places of departure, arrival, or return, carrier and flight numbers for air travel, destination country and address or other contact information therein, means

and purpose of travel, and any other itinerary or other travel-related information required by the Attorney General.

(8) Any other information required by the Attorney General.

**(b) Provided by the jurisdiction**

The jurisdiction in which the sex offender registers shall ensure that the following information is included in the registry for that sex offender:

(1) A physical description of the sex offender.

(2) The text of the provision of law defining the criminal offense for which the sex offender is registered.

(3) The criminal history of the sex offender, including the date of all arrests and convictions; the status of parole, probation, or supervised release; registration status; and the existence of any outstanding arrest warrants for the sex offender.

(4) A current photograph of the sex offender.

(5) A set of fingerprints and palm prints of the sex offender.

(6) A DNA sample of the sex offender.

(7) A photocopy of a valid driver's license or identification card issued to the sex offender by a jurisdiction.

(8) Any other information required by the Attorney General.

**(c) Time and manner**

A sex offender shall provide and update information required under subsection (a), including information relating to intended travel outside the United States required under paragraph (7) of that subsection, in conformity with any time and manner requirements prescribed by the Attorney General.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §114, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 594; Pub. L. 114–119, §6(a), Feb. 8, 2016, 130 Stat. 22.)

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16914 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**AMENDMENTS**

**2016**—Subsec. (a)(7), (8). Pub. L. 114–119, §6(a)(1), added par. (7) and redesignated former par. (7) as (8). Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 114–119, §6(a)(2), added subsec. (c).

**§20915. Duration of registration requirement**

**(a) Full registration period**

A sex offender shall keep the registration current for the full registration period (excluding any time the sex offender is in custody or civilly committed) unless the offender is allowed a reduction under subsection (b). The full registration period is—

(1) 15 years, if the offender is a tier I sex offender;

(2) 25 years, if the offender is a tier II sex offender; and

(3) the life of the offender, if the offender is a tier III sex offender.

**(b) Reduced period for clean record**

**(1) Clean record**

The full registration period shall be reduced as described in paragraph (3) for a sex offender who maintains a clean record for the period described in paragraph (2) by—

(A) not being convicted of any offense for which imprisonment for more than 1 year may be imposed;

(B) not being convicted of any sex offense;

(C) successfully completing any periods of supervised release, probation, and parole; and

(D) successfully completing of <sup>1</sup> an appropriate sex offender treatment program certified by a jurisdiction or by the Attorney General.

## **(2) Period**

In the case of—

(A) a tier I sex offender, the period during which the clean record shall be maintained is 10 years; and

(B) a tier III sex offender adjudicated delinquent for the offense which required registration in a sex registry under this subchapter, the period during which the clean record shall be maintained is 25 years.

## **(3) Reduction**

In the case of—

(A) a tier I sex offender, the reduction is 5 years;

(B) a tier III sex offender adjudicated delinquent, the reduction is from life to that period for which the clean record under paragraph (2) is maintained.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §115, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 595.)

### **REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (b)(2)(B), was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

### **CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16915 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

<sup>1</sup> *So in original. The word "of" probably should not appear.*

## **§20916. Direction to the Attorney General**

### **(a) Requirement that sex offenders provide certain Internet related information to sex offender registries**

The Attorney General, using the authority provided in section 114(a)(7) <sup>1</sup> of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act [34 U.S.C. 20914(a)(7)], shall require that each sex offender provide to the sex offender registry those Internet identifiers the sex offender uses or will use of any type that the Attorney General determines to be appropriate under that Act [34 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.]. These records of Internet identifiers shall be subject to the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) to the same extent as the other records in the National Sex Offender Registry.

### **(b) Timeliness of reporting of information**

The Attorney General, using the authority provided in section 112(b) of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act [34 U.S.C. 20912(b)], shall specify the time and manner for keeping current information required to be provided under this section.

### **(c) Nondisclosure to general public**

The Attorney General, using the authority provided in section 118(b)(4) of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act [34 U.S.C. 20920(b)(4)], shall exempt from disclosure all information provided by a sex offender under subsection (a).

### **(d) Notice to sex offenders of new requirements**

The Attorney General shall ensure that procedures are in place to notify each sex offender of changes in requirements that apply to that sex offender as a result of the implementation of this section.



## **(e) Definitions**

### **(1) Of "social networking website"**

As used in this Act, the term "social networking website"—

(A) means an Internet website—

(i) that allows users, through the creation of web pages or profiles or by other means, to provide information about themselves that is available to the public or to other users; and

(ii) that offers a mechanism for communication with other users where such users are likely to include a substantial number of minors; and

(iii) whose primary purpose is to facilitate online social interactions; and

(B) includes any contractors or agents used by the website to act on behalf of the website in carrying out the purposes of this Act.

### **(2) Of "Internet identifiers"**

As used in this Act, the term "Internet identifiers" means electronic mail addresses and other designations used for self-identification or routing in Internet communication or posting.

### **(3) Other terms**

A term defined for the purposes of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act [34 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.] has the same meaning in this Act.

(Pub. L. 110–400, §2, Oct. 13, 2008, 122 Stat. 4224.)

## **REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (e)(3), is title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, which is classified principally to this subchapter. Section 114(a)(7) of the Act was redesignated section 114(a)(8) of the Act by Pub. L. 114–119, §6(a)(1)(A), Feb. 8, 2016, 130 Stat. 22. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

This Act, referred to in subsec. (e), is Pub. L. 110–400, Oct. 13, 2008, 122 Stat. 4224, known as the Keeping the Internet Devoid of Sexual Predators Act of 2008, and also known as the KIDS Act of 2008, which enacted this section and section 20917 of this title, amended section 20981 of this title, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 10101 and 20981 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2008 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

## **CODIFICATION**

Section was enacted as part of the Keeping the Internet Devoid of Sexual Predators Act of 2008, also known as the KIDS Act of 2008, and not as part of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act which comprises this subchapter, or as part of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 which comprises this chapter.

Section was formerly classified to section 16915a of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

<sup>1</sup> [See References in Text note below.](#)

## **§20917. Checking system for social networking websites**

### **(a) In general**

#### **(1) Secure system for comparisons**

The Attorney General shall establish and maintain a secure system that permits social networking websites to compare the information contained in the National Sex Offender Registry with the Internet identifiers of users of the social networking websites, and view only those Internet identifiers that match. The system—

(A) shall not require or permit any social networking website to transmit Internet identifiers of its users to the operator of the system, and

(B) shall use secure procedures that preserve the secrecy of the information made available by the Attorney General, including protection measures that render the Internet identifiers and other data elements indecipherable.

**(2) Provision of information relating to identity**

Upon receiving a matched Internet identifier, the social networking website may make a request of the Attorney General for, and the Attorney General shall provide promptly, information related to the identity of the individual that has registered the matched Internet identifier. This information is limited to the name, sex, resident address, photograph, and physical description.

**(b) Qualification for use of system**

A social networking website seeking to use the system shall submit an application to the Attorney General which provides—

- (1) the name and legal status of the website;
- (2) the contact information for the website;
- (3) a description of the nature and operations of the website;
- (4) a statement explaining why the website seeks to use the system;
- (5) a description of policies and procedures to ensure that—

(A) any individual who is denied access to that website on the basis of information obtained through the system is promptly notified of the basis for the denial and has the ability to challenge the denial of access; and

(B) if the social networking website finds that information is inaccurate, incomplete, or cannot be verified, the site immediately notifies the appropriate State registry and the Department of Justice, so that they may delete or correct that information in the respective State and national databases;

(6) the identity and address of, and contact information for, any contractor that will be used by the social networking website to use the system; and

(7) such other information or attestations as the Attorney General may require to ensure that the website will use the system—

(A) to protect the safety of the users of such website; and

(B) for the limited purpose of making the automated comparison described in subsection (a).

**(c) Searches against the system**

**(1) Frequency of use of the system**

A social networking website approved by the Attorney General to use the system may conduct searches under the system as frequently as the Attorney General may allow.

**(2) Authority of Attorney General to suspend use**

The Attorney General may deny, suspend, or terminate use of the system by a social networking website that—

(A) provides false information in its application for use of the system;

(B) may be using or seeks to use the system for any unlawful or improper purpose;

(C) fails to comply with the procedures required under subsection (b)(5); or

(D) uses information obtained from the system in any way that is inconsistent with the purposes of this Act.

**(3) Limitation on release of Internet identifiers**

**(A) No public release**

Neither the Attorney General nor a social networking website approved to use the system may release to the public any list of the Internet identifiers of sex offenders contained in the system.

**(B) Additional limitations**

The Attorney General shall limit the release of information obtained through the use of the system established under subsection (a) by social networking websites approved to use such

system.

**(C) Strict adherence to limitation**

The use of the system established under subsection (a) by a social networking website shall be conditioned on the website's agreement to observe the limitations required under this paragraph.

**(D) Rule of construction**

This subsection shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Attorney General under any other provision of law to conduct or to allow searches or checks against sex offender registration information.

**(4) Payment of fee**

A social networking website approved to use the system shall pay any fee established by the Attorney General for use of the system.

**(5) Limitation on liability**

**(A) In general**

A civil claim against a social networking website, including any director, officer, employee, parent, contractor, or agent of that social networking website, arising from the use by such website of the National Sex Offender Registry, may not be brought in any Federal or State court.

**(B) Intentional, reckless, or other misconduct**

Subparagraph (A) does not apply to a claim if the social networking website, or a director, officer, employee, parent, contractor, or agent of that social networking website—

(i) engaged in intentional misconduct; or

(ii) acted, or failed to act—

(I) with actual malice;

(II) with reckless disregard to a substantial risk of causing injury without legal justification; or

(III) for a purpose unrelated to the performance of any responsibility or function described in paragraph (3).

**(C) Minimizing access**

A social networking website shall minimize the number of employees that are provided access to the Internet identifiers for which a match has been found through the system.

**(6) Rule of construction**

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any Internet website, including a social networking website, to use the system, and no Federal or State liability, or any other actionable adverse consequence, shall be imposed on such website based on its decision not to do so.

(Pub. L. 110–400, §3, Oct. 13, 2008, 122 Stat. 4225.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(2)(D), is Pub. L. 110–400, Oct. 13, 2008, 122 Stat. 4224, known as the Keeping the Internet Devoid of Sexual Predators Act of 2008, and also known as the KIDS Act of 2008, which enacted this section and section 20916 of this title, amended section 20981 of this title, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 10101 and 20981 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2008 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

**CODIFICATION**

Section was enacted as part of the Keeping the Internet Devoid of Sexual Predators Act of 2008, also known as the KIDS Act of 2008, and not as part of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act which comprises this subchapter, or as part of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 which comprises this chapter.

Section was formerly classified to section 16915b of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

## **§20918. Periodic in person verification**

A sex offender shall appear in person, allow the jurisdiction to take a current photograph, and verify the information in each registry in which that offender is required to be registered not less frequently than—

- (1) each year, if the offender is a tier I sex offender;
- (2) every 6 months, if the offender is a tier II sex offender; and
- (3) every 3 months, if the offender is a tier III sex offender.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §116, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 595.)

### **CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16916 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

## **§20919. Duty to notify sex offenders of registration requirements and to register**

### **(a) In general**

An appropriate official shall, shortly before release of the sex offender from custody, or, if the sex offender is not in custody, immediately after the sentencing of the sex offender, for the offense giving rise to the duty to register—

- (1) inform the sex offender of the duties of a sex offender under this subchapter and explain those duties;
- (2) require the sex offender to read and sign a form stating that the duty to register has been explained and that the sex offender understands the registration requirement; and
- (3) ensure that the sex offender is registered.

### **(b) Notification of sex offenders who cannot comply with subsection (a)**

The Attorney General shall prescribe rules for the notification of sex offenders who cannot be registered in accordance with subsection (a).

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §117, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 595.)

### **REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

### **CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16917 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

## **§20920. Public access to sex offender information through the Internet**

### **(a) In general**

Except as provided in this section, each jurisdiction shall make available on the Internet, in a manner that is readily accessible to all jurisdictions and to the public, all information about each sex offender in the registry. The jurisdiction shall maintain the Internet site in a manner that will permit the public to obtain relevant information for each sex offender by a single query for any given zip code or geographic radius set by the user. The jurisdiction shall also include in the design of its Internet site all field search capabilities needed for full participation in the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website and shall participate in that website as provided by the Attorney General.

### **(b) Mandatory exemptions**

A jurisdiction shall exempt from disclosure—

- (1) the identity of any victim of a sex offense;
- (2) the Social Security number of the sex offender;
- (3) any reference to arrests of the sex offender that did not result in conviction; and
- (4) any other information exempted from disclosure by the Attorney General.

**(c) Optional exemptions**

A jurisdiction may exempt from disclosure—

- (1) any information about a tier I sex offender convicted of an offense other than a specified offense against a minor;
- (2) the name of an employer of the sex offender;
- (3) the name of an educational institution where the sex offender is a student; and
- (4) any other information exempted from disclosure by the Attorney General.

**(d) Links**

The site shall include, to the extent practicable, links to sex offender safety and education resources.

**(e) Correction of errors**

The site shall include instructions on how to seek correction of information that an individual contends is erroneous.

**(f) Warning**

The site shall include a warning that information on the site should not be used to unlawfully injure, harass, or commit a crime against any individual named in the registry or residing or working at any reported address. The warning shall note that any such action could result in civil or criminal penalties.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §118, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 596.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website, referred to in subsec. (a), is located at <https://www.nsopw.gov>.

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16918 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

## **§20921. National Sex Offender Registry**

**(a) Internet**

The Attorney General shall maintain a national database at the Federal Bureau of Investigation for each sex offender and any other person required to register in a jurisdiction's sex offender registry. The database shall be known as the National Sex Offender Registry.

**(b) Electronic forwarding**

The Attorney General shall ensure (through the National Sex Offender Registry or otherwise) that updated information about a sex offender is immediately transmitted by electronic forwarding to all relevant jurisdictions.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §119, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 596.)

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16919 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

## **§20922. Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website**

**(a) Establishment**

There is established the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "Website"), which the Attorney General shall maintain.

**(b) Information to be provided**

The Website shall include relevant information for each sex offender and other person listed on a jurisdiction's Internet site. The Website shall allow the public to obtain relevant information for each sex offender by a single query for any given zip code or geographical radius set by the user in a form and with such limitations as may be established by the Attorney General and shall have such other field search capabilities as the Attorney General may provide.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §120, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 597.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website, referred to in text, is located at <https://www.nsopw.gov>.

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16920 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**§20923. Megan Nicole Kanka and Alexandra Nicole Zapp Community Notification Program**

**(a) Establishment of Program**

There is established the Megan Nicole Kanka and Alexandra Nicole Zapp Community Notification Program (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "Program").

**(b) Program notification**

Except as provided in subsection (c), immediately after a sex offender registers or updates a registration, an appropriate official in the jurisdiction shall provide the information in the registry (other than information exempted from disclosure by the Attorney General) about that offender to the following:

(1) The Attorney General, who shall include that information in the National Sex Offender Registry or other appropriate databases.

(2) Appropriate law enforcement agencies (including probation agencies, if appropriate), and each school and public housing agency, in each area in which the individual resides, is an employee or is a student.

(3) Each jurisdiction where the sex offender resides, is an employee, or is a student, and each jurisdiction from or to which a change of residence, employment, or student status occurs.

(4) Any agency responsible for conducting employment-related background checks under section 40102 of this title.

(5) Social service entities responsible for protecting minors in the child welfare system.

(6) Volunteer organizations in which contact with minors or other vulnerable individuals might occur.

(7) Any organization, company, or individual who requests such notification pursuant to procedures established by the jurisdiction.

**(c) Frequency**

Notwithstanding subsection (b), an organization or individual described in subsection (b)(6) or (b)(7) may opt to receive the notification described in that subsection no less frequently than once every five business days.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §121, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 597.)

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16921 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

### **§20924. Actions to be taken when sex offender fails to comply**

An appropriate official shall notify the Attorney General and appropriate law enforcement agencies of any failure by a sex offender to comply with the requirements of a registry and revise the jurisdiction's registry to reflect the nature of that failure. The appropriate official, the Attorney General, and each such law enforcement agency shall take any appropriate action to ensure compliance.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §122, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 597.)

#### **CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16922 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

### **§20925. Development and availability of registry management and website software**

#### **(a) Duty to develop and support**

The Attorney General shall, in consultation with the jurisdictions, develop and support software to enable jurisdictions to establish and operate uniform sex offender registries and Internet sites.

#### **(b) Criteria**

The software should facilitate—

- (1) immediate exchange of information among jurisdictions;
- (2) public access over the Internet to appropriate information, including the number of registered sex offenders in each jurisdiction on a current basis;
- (3) full compliance with the requirements of this subchapter; and
- (4) communication of information to community notification program participants as required under section 20923 of this title.

#### **(c) Deadline**

The Attorney General shall make the first complete edition of this software available to jurisdictions within 2 years of July 27, 2006.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §123, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 598.)

#### **REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (b)(3), was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

#### **CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16923 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

### **§20926. Period for implementation by jurisdictions**

#### **(a) Deadline**

Each jurisdiction shall implement this subchapter before the later of—

- (1) 3 years after July 27, 2006; and

(2) 1 year after the date on which the software described in section 20925 of this title is available.

**(b) Extensions**

The Attorney General may authorize up to two 1-year extensions of the deadline.  
(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §124, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 598.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

The software described in section 20925 of this title, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), became available on July 25, 2008. See Office of Justice Progs., U.S. Dep't of Justice, Annual Report to Congress 26 (Fiscal Year 2008).

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16924 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**§20927. Failure of jurisdiction to comply**

**(a) In general**

For any fiscal year after the end of the period for implementation, a jurisdiction that fails, as determined by the Attorney General, to substantially implement this subchapter shall not receive 10 percent of the funds that would otherwise be allocated for that fiscal year to the jurisdiction under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.).<sup>1</sup>

**(b) State constitutionality**

**(1) In general**

When evaluating whether a jurisdiction has substantially implemented this subchapter, the Attorney General shall consider whether the jurisdiction is unable to substantially implement this subchapter because of a demonstrated inability to implement certain provisions that would place the jurisdiction in violation of its constitution, as determined by a ruling of the jurisdiction's highest court.

**(2) Efforts**

If the circumstances arise under paragraph (1), then the Attorney General and the jurisdiction shall make good faith efforts to accomplish substantial implementation of this subchapter and to reconcile any conflicts between this subchapter and the jurisdiction's constitution. In considering whether compliance with the requirements of this subchapter would likely violate the jurisdiction's constitution or an interpretation thereof by the jurisdiction's highest court, the Attorney General shall consult with the chief executive and chief legal officer of the jurisdiction concerning the jurisdiction's interpretation of the jurisdiction's constitution and rulings thereon by the jurisdiction's highest court.

**(3) Alternative procedures**

If the jurisdiction is unable to substantially implement this subchapter because of a limitation imposed by the jurisdiction's constitution, the Attorney General may determine that the jurisdiction is in compliance with this chapter if the jurisdiction has made, or is in the process of implementing <sup>2</sup> reasonable alternative procedures or accommodations, which are consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

**(4) Funding reduction**



If a jurisdiction does not comply with paragraph (3), then the jurisdiction shall be subject to a funding reduction as specified in subsection (a).

**(c) Reallocation**

Amounts not allocated under a program referred to in this section to a jurisdiction for failure to substantially implement this subchapter shall be reallocated under that program to jurisdictions that have not failed to substantially implement this subchapter or may be reallocated to a jurisdiction from which they were withheld to be used solely for the purpose of implementing this subchapter.

**(d) Rule of construction**

The provisions of this subchapter that are cast as directions to jurisdictions or their officials constitute, in relation to States, only conditions required to avoid the reduction of Federal funding under this section.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §125, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 598.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This subchapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 90–351, June 19, 1968, 82 Stat. 197. Subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Act was classified generally to part A (§3750 et seq.) of subchapter V of chapter 46 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification as part A (§10151 et seq.) of subchapter V of chapter 101 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1968 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b)(3), was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 587, known as the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16925 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

<sup>1</sup> [See References in Text note below.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [So in original. Probably should be followed by a comma.](#)

**§20928. Sex Offender Management Assistance (SOMA) program**

**(a) In general**

The Attorney General shall establish and implement a Sex Offender Management Assistance program (in this subchapter referred to as the "SOMA program"), under which the Attorney General may award a grant to a jurisdiction to offset the costs of implementing this subchapter.

**(b) Application**

The chief executive of a jurisdiction desiring a grant under this section shall, on an annual basis, submit to the Attorney General an application in such form and containing such information as the Attorney General may require.

**(c) Bonus payments for prompt compliance**

A jurisdiction that, as determined by the Attorney General, has substantially implemented this subchapter not later than 2 years after July 27, 2006, is eligible for a bonus payment. The Attorney General may make such a payment under the SOMA program for the first fiscal year beginning after that determination. The amount of the payment shall be—

- (1) 10 percent of the total received by the jurisdiction under the SOMA program for the preceding fiscal year, if that implementation is not later than 1 year after July 27, 2006; and
- (2) 5 percent of such total, if not later than 2 years after July 27, 2006.

**(d) Authorization of appropriations**

In addition to any amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to the Attorney General, to be available only for the SOMA program, for fiscal years 2007 through 2009.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §126, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 599.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This subchapter, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (c), was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16926 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**§20929. Election by Indian tribes**

**(a) Election**

**(1) In general**

A federally recognized Indian tribe may, by resolution or other enactment of the tribal council or comparable governmental body—

(A) elect to carry out this part as a jurisdiction subject to its provisions; or

(B) elect to delegate its functions under this part to another jurisdiction or jurisdictions within which the territory of the tribe is located and to provide access to its territory and such other cooperation and assistance as may be needed to enable such other jurisdiction or jurisdictions to carry out and enforce the requirements of this part.

**(2) Imputed election in certain cases**

A tribe shall be treated as if it had made the election described in paragraph (1)(B) if—

(A) it is a tribe subject to the law enforcement jurisdiction of a State under section 1162 of title 18;

(B) the tribe does not make an election under paragraph (1) within 1 year of July 27, 2006 or rescinds an election under paragraph (1)(A); or

(C) the Attorney General determines that the tribe has not substantially implemented the requirements of this part and is not likely to become capable of doing so within a reasonable amount of time.

**(b) Cooperation between tribal authorities and other jurisdictions**

**(1) Nonduplication**

A tribe subject to this part is not required to duplicate functions under this part which are fully carried out by another jurisdiction or jurisdictions within which the territory of the tribe is located.

**(2) Cooperative agreements**

A tribe may, through cooperative agreements with such a jurisdiction or jurisdictions—

(A) arrange for the tribe to carry out any function of such a jurisdiction under this part with respect to sex offenders subject to the tribe's jurisdiction; and

(B) arrange for such a jurisdiction to carry out any function of the tribe under this part with respect to sex offenders subject to the tribe's jurisdiction.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §127, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 599.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This part, referred to in text, was in the original "this subtitle", meaning subtitle A (§§111–131) of title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 591, which is classified principally to this part. For complete classification of subtitle A to the Code, see Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 16927 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

### **§20930. Registration of sex offenders entering the United States**

The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall establish and maintain a system for informing the relevant jurisdictions about persons entering the United States who are required to register under this subchapter. The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide such information and carry out such functions as the Attorney General may direct in the operation of the system.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §128, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 600.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 16928 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

### **§20931. Registration of sex offenders released from military corrections facilities or upon conviction**

The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Attorney General the information described in section 20914 of this title to be included in the National Sex Offender Registry and the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website regarding persons—

- (1)(A) released from military corrections facilities; or
- (B) convicted if the sentences adjudged by courts-martial under chapter 47 of title 10 (the Uniform Code of Military Justice) do not include confinement; and
- (2) required to register under this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §128A, as added Pub. L. 114–22, title V, §502(a), May 29, 2015, 129 Stat. 258.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website, referred to in text, is located at <https://www.nsopw.gov>.

This subchapter, referred to in par. (2), was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 16928a of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

## **§20932. Immunity for good faith conduct**

The Federal Government, jurisdictions, political subdivisions of jurisdictions, and their agencies, officers, employees, and agents shall be immune from liability for good faith conduct under this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §131, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 601.)

### **REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This subchapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title I of Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 590, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

### **CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16929 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

## **PART B—IMPROVING FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ENSURE SEX OFFENDER COMPLIANCE WITH REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM VIOLENT PREDATORS**

## **§20941. Federal assistance with respect to violations of registration requirements**

### **(a) In general**

The Attorney General shall use the resources of Federal law enforcement, including the United States Marshals Service, to assist jurisdictions in locating and apprehending sex offenders who violate sex offender registration requirements. For the purposes of section 566(e)(1)(B) of title 28, a sex offender who violates a sex offender registration requirement shall be deemed a fugitive.

### **(b) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2007 through 2009 to implement this section.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §142, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 604.)

### **CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16941 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

## **§20942. Project Safe Childhood**

### **(a) Establishment of program**

Not later than 6 months after July 27, 2006, the Attorney General shall create and maintain a Project Safe Childhood program in accordance with this section.

### **(b) Initial implementation**

Except as authorized under subsection (c), funds authorized under this section may only be used for the following 5 purposes:

(1) Integrated Federal, State, and local efforts to investigate and prosecute child exploitation cases, including—

(A) the partnership by each United States Attorney with each Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force that is a part of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program

authorized and funded under title IV of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5771 et seq.) <sup>1</sup> (referred to in this section as the "ICAC Task Force Program") that exists within the district of such attorney;

(B) the partnership by each United States Attorney with other Federal, State, and local law enforcement partners working in the district of such attorney to implement the program described in subsection (a);

(C) the development by each United States Attorney of a district-specific strategic plan to coordinate the investigation and prosecution of child exploitation crimes;

(D) efforts to identify and rescue victims of child exploitation crimes; and

(E) local training, educational, and awareness programs of such crimes.

(2) Major case coordination by the Department of Justice (or other Federal agencies as appropriate), including specific integration or cooperation, as appropriate, of—

(A) the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section within the Department of Justice;

(B) the Innocent Images Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(C) any task forces established in connection with the Project Safe Childhood program set forth under subsection (a); and

(D) the High Tech Investigative Unit within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

(3) Increased Federal involvement in child pornography and enticement cases by providing additional investigative tools and increased penalties under Federal law.

(4) Training of Federal, State, and local law enforcement through programs facilitated by—

(A) the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children;

(B) the ICAC Task Force Program; and

(C) any other ongoing program regarding the investigation and prosecution of computer-facilitated crimes against children, including training and coordination regarding leads from—

(i) Federal law enforcement operations; and

(ii) the CyberTipline and Child Victim-Identification programs managed and maintained by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

(5) Community awareness and educational programs through partnerships to provide national public awareness and educational programs through—

(A) the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children;

(B) the ICAC Task Force Program; and

(C) any other ongoing programs that—

(i) raises <sup>2</sup> national awareness about the threat of online sexual predators; or

(ii) provides <sup>2</sup> information to parents and children seeking to report possible violations of computer-facilitated crimes against children.

### **(c) Expansion of project safe childhood**

Notwithstanding subsection (b), funds authorized under this section may be also be <sup>2</sup> used for the following purposes:

(1) The addition of not less than 8 Assistant United States Attorneys at the Department of Justice dedicated to the prosecution of cases in connection with the Project Safe Childhood program set forth under subsection (a).

(2) The creation, development, training, and deployment of not less than 10 new Internet Crimes Against Children task forces within the ICAC Task Force Program consisting of Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel dedicated to the Project Safe Childhood program set forth under subsection (a), and the enhancement of the forensic capacities of existing Internet Crimes Against Children task forces.

(3) The development and enhancement by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Innocent Images task forces.

(4) Such other additional and related purposes as the Attorney General determines appropriate.

#### **(d) Authorization of appropriations**

For the purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) for the activities described under subsection (b)—

(A) \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2007; and

(B) such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years; and

(2) for the activities described under subsection (c)—

(A) for fiscal year 2007—

(i) \$15,000,000 for the activities under paragraph (1);

(ii) \$10,000,000 for activities under paragraph (2); and

(iii) \$4,000,000 for activities under paragraph (3); and

(B) such sums as may be necessary for each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §143, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 604.)

#### **REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, referred to in subsec. (b)(1)(A), is Pub. L. 93–415, Sept. 7, 1974, 88 Stat. 1109. Title IV of the Act was classified generally to subchapter IV (§5771 et seq.) of chapter 72 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification as subchapter IV (§11291 et seq.) of chapter 111 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1974 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

#### **CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16942 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

<sup>1</sup> [\*See References in Text note below.\*](#)

<sup>2</sup> [\*So in original.\*](#)

### **§20943. Federal assistance in identification and location of sex offenders relocated as a result of a major disaster**

The Attorney General shall provide assistance to jurisdictions in the identification and location of a sex offender relocated as a result of a major disaster.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §144, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 606.)

#### **CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16943 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

### **§20944. Expansion of training and technology efforts**

#### **(a) Training**

The Attorney General shall—

(1) expand training efforts with Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors to effectively respond to the threat to children and the public posed by sex offenders who use the Internet and technology to solicit or otherwise exploit children;

(2) facilitate meetings involving corporations that sell computer hardware and software or provide services to the general public related to use of the Internet, to identify problems associated with the use of technology for the purpose of exploiting children;

(3) host national conferences to train Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers, probation and parole officers, and prosecutors regarding pro-active approaches to monitoring sex

offender activity on the Internet;

(4) develop and distribute, for personnel listed in paragraph (3), information regarding multidisciplinary approaches to holding offenders accountable to the terms of their probation, parole, and sex offender registration laws; and

(5) partner with other agencies to improve the coordination of joint investigations among agencies to effectively combat online solicitation of children by sex offenders.

**(b) Technology**

The Attorney General shall—

(1) deploy, to all Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces and their partner agencies, technology modeled after the Canadian Child Exploitation Tracking System; and

(2) conduct training in the use of that technology.

**(c) Report**

Not later than July 1, 2007, the Attorney General,<sup>1</sup> shall submit to Congress a report on the activities carried out under this section. The report shall include any recommendations that the Attorney General considers appropriate.

**(d) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General, for fiscal year 2007—

(1) \$1,000,000 to carry out subsection (a); and

(2) \$2,000,000 to carry out subsection (b).

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §145, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 606.)

**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 16944 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

<sup>1</sup> *So in original. The comma probably should not appear.*

**§20945. Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking**

**(a) Establishment**

There is established within the Department of Justice, under the general authority of the Attorney General, an Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "SMART Office").

**(b) Director**

The SMART Office shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the President. The Director shall report to the Attorney General through the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs and shall have final authority for all grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts awarded by the SMART Office. The Director shall not engage in any employment other than that of serving as the Director, nor shall the Director hold any office in, or act in any capacity for, any organization, agency, or institution with which the Office makes any contract or other arrangement.

**(c) Duties and functions**

The SMART Office is authorized to—

(1) administer the standards for the sex offender registration and notification program set forth in this chapter;

(2) administer grant programs relating to sex offender registration and notification authorized by this chapter and other grant programs authorized by this chapter as directed by the Attorney General;

(3) cooperate with and provide technical assistance to States, units of local government, tribal governments, and other public and private entities involved in activities related to sex offender

registration or notification or to other measures for the protection of children or other members of the public from sexual abuse or exploitation; and

(4) perform such other functions as the Attorney General may delegate.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §146, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 607.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), (2), was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 109–248, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 587, known as the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2006 Act note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 16945 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

## PART C—ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND RESOURCES NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN ARE NOT ATTACKED OR ABUSED

### §20961. Access to national crime information databases

#### (a) In general

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Attorney General shall ensure access to the national crime information databases (as defined in section 534 of title 28) by—

(1) the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to be used only within the scope of the Center's duties and responsibilities under Federal law to assist or support law enforcement agencies in administration of criminal justice functions; and

(2) governmental social service agencies with child protection responsibilities, to be used by such agencies only in investigating or responding to reports of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

#### (b) Conditions of access

The access provided under this section, and associated rules of dissemination, shall be—

(1) defined by the Attorney General; and

(2) limited to personnel of the Center or such agencies that have met all requirements set by the Attorney General, including training, certification, and background screening.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §151, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 608.)

#### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 16961 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

### §20962. Schools SAFE Act

#### (a) Short title

This section may be cited as the "Schools Safely Acquiring Faculty Excellence Act of 2006".

#### (b) In general

The Attorney General of the United States shall, upon request of the chief executive officer of a State, conduct fingerprint-based checks of the national crime information databases (as defined in section 534(f)(3)(A) of title 28) pursuant to a request submitted by—

(1) a child welfare agency for the purpose of—



(A) conducting a background check required under section 471(a)(20) of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 671(a)(20)] on individuals under consideration as prospective foster or adoptive parents; or

(B) an investigation relating to an incident of abuse or neglect of a minor; or

(2) a private or public elementary school, a private or public secondary school, a local educational agency, or State educational agency in that State, on individuals employed by, under consideration for employment by, or otherwise in a position in which the individual would work with or around children in the school or agency.

**(c) Fingerprint-based check**

Where possible, the check shall include a fingerprint-based check of State criminal history databases.

**(d) Fees**

The Attorney General and the States may charge any applicable fees for the checks.

**(e) Protection of information**

An individual having information derived as a result of a check under subsection (b) may release that information only to appropriate officers of child welfare agencies, public or private elementary or secondary schools, or educational agencies or other persons authorized by law to receive that information.

**(f) Criminal penalties**

An individual who knowingly exceeds the authority in subsection (b), or knowingly releases information in violation of subsection (e), shall be imprisoned not more than 10 years or fined under title 18, or both.

**(g) Child welfare agency defined**

In this section, the term "child welfare agency" means—

(1) the State or local agency responsible for administering the plan under part B or part E of title IV of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 620 et seq., 670 et seq.]; and

(2) any other public agency, or any other private agency under contract with the State or local agency responsible for administering the plan under part B or part E of title IV of the Social Security Act, that is responsible for the licensing or approval of foster or adoptive parents.

**(h) Definition of education terms**

In this section, the terms "elementary school", "local educational agency", "secondary school", and "State educational agency" have the meanings given to those terms in section 7801 of title 20.

(Pub. L. 109–248, title I, §153, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 610; Pub. L. 114–95, title IX, §9215(b), Dec. 10, 2015, 129 Stat. 2166.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (g), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620. Parts B and E of title IV of the Act are classified generally to part B (§620 et seq.) and part E (§670 et seq.), respectively, of subchapter IV of chapter 7 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of Title 42 and Tables.

**CODIFICATION**

Section is comprised of section 153 of Pub. L. 109–248. Subsec. (i) of section 153 of Pub. L. 109–248 amended section 534 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

Section was formerly classified to section 16962 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**AMENDMENTS**

**2015**—Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 114–95 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 7801 of title 20.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2015 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 114–95 effective Dec. 10, 2015, except with respect to certain noncompetitive programs and competitive programs, see section 5 of Pub. L. 114–95, set out as a note under section 6301 of Title 20, Education.