

Sex Offenders



Sex offenders have always been in our community, and they will always be here. The reality of sex offending is that it is often done in the home or some other familiar location, usually by a family member, friend or acquaintance. The victims are usually children and young adolescents. But whether the victim is a child or adult, they usually know the offender. It's a misperception that most sex offenses are committed by a stranger. The fact is, only two percent of all offenders in the United States are strangers to the victim.

Sex offenders come from all walks of life. They can be male or female, young or old, rich or poor, religious or non-religious, or from any race.

**For emergencies,
call 9-1-1**

How to Protect Your Family



- Always know where your children are and who they are with.
- Teach children the proper names for body parts and that no one has the right to touch their private parts, except for medical reasons.
- Instruct them to tell you if someone touches them in a way that makes them uncomfortable.
- Be alert to “grooming” techniques used by sex offenders. Sex offenders will engage in peer-like play with children and slowly desensitize a child to touch, often right in front of the parent.
- Set clear family guidelines for personal privacy and behavior. As a child matures, boundaries may need to change (e.g., knock on the door before entering the room of an adolescent).
- Use the Sheriff's Office crime map at <http://sheriff.snoco.org> to find out if there are registered sex offenders living in your neighborhood.



Warning Signs A Child Has Been Abused

- Nightmares, fear of the dark, or other sleeping problems.
- Loss of appetite, or trouble eating or swallowing.
- Sudden mood swings: rage, fear, anger, or withdrawal.
- Fear of certain people or places.
- Stomach illness all of the time with no identifiable reason.
- An older child behaving like a younger child, such as bedwetting or thumb sucking.
- Sexual activities with toys or other children.
- New words for private body parts.
- Cutting or burning herself or himself as an adolescent.
- Talking about a new older friend.

Remember this . . .

- Be alert to “grooming” techniques used by sex offenders, and warning signs a child has been abused.
- If a child tells you he or she has been abused, BELIEVE THEM and report the crime. Children rarely make up stories about sexual assault.



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office | Neighborhood Watch/Crime Prevention
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