

Sexual Offenders and Predators

The safety of our children is our number one priority. In order to promote student safety, the following information has been provided to help parents and community members with awareness, education, and identification of sexual offenders. The following is a brief overview, detailed information can be found at <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/> and in Florida statute.

In general a sexual offender as defined by Florida statutes is a person who has been convicted of crimes such as; kidnapping or false imprisonment (where the victim is a child), luring or enticing a child, sexual battery, procuring a person under 16 for prostitution, a lewd or lascivious offense upon or in the presence of a child under 16 years of age, a lewd or lascivious offense upon or in the presence of an elderly or disabled person, sexual performance by a child, showing, transmitting, or distributing obscene material to a child, using a computer for the purpose of storing, transmitting, etc. child pornography, or the selling or buying of a minor.

The Florida Legislature, in F.S. 775.210(3) states that “Repeat sexual offenders, sexual offenders who use physical violence, and sexual offenders who prey on children are sexual predators who present an extreme threat to the public safety. Sexual offenders are extremely likely to use physical violence and to repeat their offenses, and most sexual offenders commit many offenses, have many more victims than are ever reported, and are prosecuted for only a fraction of their crimes.”

In general a sexual predator is one who, guilty of certain crimes (e.g. sexual battery, some kidnapping and false imprisonments of children) and the court has designated them as a sexual predator, or, has repeat convictions for the sexual offenses enumerated above.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement has a public data base that can be used to search for Florida offenders, their status, and location. The website, <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us> includes a guided or neighborhood search and an informational flyer on the offender. Those offenders listed as “under supervision” are subject to community control. Your local Department of Corrections Probation Office will be able to provide more information on the restrictions.

There is also a national sex offender data base that links state, territorial, and tribal offender registries into one national search site. The site located at www.nsopw.gov This Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) is an unprecedented public safety resource.