DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

FACT SHEET

Community Notification Act

What is Minnesota's Community Notification Act?

The Community Notification Act requires a risk level to be assigned to persons who are subject to registration under Minnesota Statute 243.166 or 243.167 before they are released from confinement in a Minnesota correctional facility or treatment facility. Primarily these are persons who have engaged in criminal sexual behavior or kidnapping or false imprisonment. The Community Notification Act also requires that community notification of the registrant's release occur.

Facts About Minnesota's Community Notification Act

Minnesota's Community Notification Act went into effect on January 1, 1997.

Assignment of risk levels is the statutory responsibility of the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

Community notification is the statutory responsibility of law enforcement.

Registrants subject to broad public disclosure are identified on a public website. Registrants are subject to the provisions of the Community Notification Act for as long as they are required to register.

Of all registrants who have been assigned risk levels, approximately 57% are level 1; 31% are level 2; and 12% are level 3.

Approximately 439 registrants subject to broad public disclosure are living in Minnesota communities (as of 1/1/26).

Risk Levels

- Level 1 – lower risk
- Level 2 – moderate risk
- Level 3 – higher risk

Registration

Since July 1, 1991, registrants in Minnesota have been required to provide their addresses and other required information to local law enforcement agencies, who then forward the information to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, which maintains a database that can be used by the law enforcement agencies for informational and investigation purposes.

Who is Assigned a Risk Level?

Risk levels are assigned to registrants:

1) Released from a state prison in Minnesota;
2) Released from a state prison in another state who come to Minnesota under supervision;
3) Released from a federal prison and intending to reside in Minnesota;
4) Released from confinement who were committed as sexually dangerous persons, sexually psychopathic personalities or select cases of mentally ill and dangerous; or
5) Upon request from local law enforcement if released from a federal prison or another state's prison (and not under supervision) and registered in Minnesota.

As of May 19, 2026, approximately 9,015 of Minnesota's 19,395 registered (active) persons fall under the above categories and are assigned a risk level. An additional 1,143 risk level assignees are outside of Minnesota and not subject to registration requirements (inactive) in Minnesota at this time.

Who Assigns Risk Levels?

An End-of-Confinement Review Committee (ECRC) is established at each Minnesota correctional facility or treatment facility to determine risk levels. For registrants released from federal or out-of-state prisons, or any ECRC reassessments, an ECRC established at the DOC Central office performs that function.

What is Included in the Public Notification?

General area of residence, description of the registrant and photos, and a description of past criminal behavior, including when and where.

Who Serves On The ECRC?

The chief executive officer of the facility where the registrant is confined, or their designee; a law enforcement officer; a treatment professional trained in assessing those who have sexually offended; a caseworker experienced in supervising these registrants; and a victim services professional.

What Does The ECRC Consider When Assigning Risk Level?

The seriousness of the offense; the registrant's prior offense history; the registrant's characteristics, such as response to prior treatment efforts and history of substance abuse; the availability of community support to the registrant, such as therapeutic treatment, a stable and supervised living arrangement, familial and social relationships, and the registrant's education or employment stability; whether the registrant has indicated, or credible evidence in the record indicates, that the registrant will reoffend; and whether the registrant demonstrates a physical condition that minimizes risk of reoffense, including but not limited to advanced age or a debilitating illness or physical condition.

Can a Risk Level Be Changed?

Yes. Within 14 days of being assigned risk level 2 or 3, a registrant can request review from an administrative law judge. Also, after three years from initial risk level assignment, a registrant can request that the ECRC consider a level reassessment. Additionally a supervising agent may request a reassessment at any time if they demonstrate that substantial information not available to the original ECRC indicates either the possibility of raising or lowering the risk level upon reassessment. Local law enforcement may also request a reassessment under the same circumstances but must do so within 30 days of the original assignment.

Who Provides Notification To The Community?

The DOC provides information from the ECRC to law enforcement, which is responsible for notification in the community where the registrant is to reside.

Who May Law Enforcement Notify About Release or Relocation of Registrant?

Level 1 – Victims of and witnesses to the crime, other law enforcement agencies, and anyone identified by the prosecuting attorney to receive the information.

Level 2 – In addition to the above, notification may be given where individuals who may become victims of the registrant are regularly found based on the registrant's history. Law enforcement may also choose to notify certain individuals that they determine to be at possible risk. The information is not to be redistributed by organizations.

Level 3 – Requires broad public notification, usually done through a public meeting. Law enforcement may also notify individuals and agencies included in Level 1 and Level 2 notifications, and may use the media and other distribution methods to get information to the public.

Are Risk Levels Public?

Levels 1 and 2 are not public, except as released by law enforcement as specified in the Community Notification Act or Minnesota Statute 253D.32. Information about those subject to public disclosure is posted on the DOC's website once law enforcement has determined the information to be disclosed. (https://coms.doc.state.mn.us/publicregistrantsearch)

Length Registrants are Subject to Community Notification Provisions?

For as long as they are required to register. Registration is generally required for a period as short as ten years, to as long as lifetime based on a number of factors including the original basis for registration and subsequent criminal behavior.