

Titus House Newsletter

Titus House Ministries, PO Box 2376, Tijeras, NM 87059

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Initial Registration Process

By Larry

We get questions like the following here at Titus House Ministries: Q: What is the requirements of each state concerning sex offender laws?

A: The requirements for each individual can vary within the same state depending on the date of the offense, the date of conviction, and the actual offense that triggers the duty to register. The bottom line is that the people have to comply with the laws until they are changed. We will describe the basic registration requirements which vary from state to state.

Initial Registration Process

The initial registration will usually occur in a law enforcement facility such as a sheriff's office or state police barracks. The number of days permitted to complete the initial registration varies from between three and ten days after release. Some states complete the process in prison prior to release. During the initial registration, you can expect to be fingerprinted, photographed, provide a DNA sample, and answer several intrusive questions. The questions will include the obvious such as date of birth, SSN, residence address, employer's address, and vehicle information. Some states require disclosure of all vehicles operated regardless of actual ownership. Many states also require disclosure of email addresses, IP addresses, usernames, and monikers. Once you are registered you will be informed of many additional requirements of re-registration and the duty to provide notification of changes as they occur.

Periodic Reregistration and Notification of Changes

The period of registration and frequency of re-registration varies throughout the country and is determined by variables far too numerous to list here. The shortest statutory period of registration we are aware of is ten years. The least frequent re-registration and verification period is annual, but semi-annual or quarterly registration is far more common. The re-registration process also varies dramatically, but most often it will be similar to the initial registration, excluding collection of DNA. Many law enforcement entities take a brand-new set of fingerprints and photo each time a person reregisters. Since fingerprints do not change, the fingerprinting is totally unnecessary and is likely done to compound the humiliation and prolong the registration process. A small number of states send a form to the registrant that he/she is required to return by mail or in person verifying that the current registration is accurate. Many states require that a registrant report changes in person within a few days, usually three, although the process can vary dramatically. For example, Virginia requires notification within 30 minutes of establishment of a new online identity, but they do not provide a statewide electronic mechanism for those reports to be made.

Residential/Employment Address Verifications by Law Enforcement

Many law enforcement entities perform regular field verification of registration information. This can be very unsettling for you and your family members. Verifications often occur via multi-agency teams consisting of local law enforcement and US. Marshals going house-to-house to confirm that the registrant resides there. Sometimes the verifications are handled professionally and in a non-intrusive manner; however, that is more the exception than the rule. We receive frequent reports of heavy-handed officers demanding access to the registrant's home and information about other household members. Unless the registrant is under supervision, there is no obligation to permit the officers to enter. Even while under supervision, there are exceptions to that rule, so it is always best to consult with a legal professional.

Termination of Registration Obligation

Many registrants will not see the end of their registration obligation unless there is a dramatic change in laws across the country. If a state does terminate the obligation to register, it happens by one of two methods. The first is that after a fixed period, the duty to register is statutorily terminated. In those states, no action on a registrant's part is usually required. The registration authority simply notifies the registrant that the duty to register has ended. The second method requires that a petition for removal be filed after a specific number of years in a court of general jurisdiction, usually the sentencing court. Usually, the registrant bears the burden of proving that he/she is no longer a significant risk in order to prevail. The success rate of such petitions varies dramatically from state to state.



Bad Public Policy

From NARSOL

By Sandy . . . With legislatures in session across the country, advocates are closely watching bills that address their issues. Some are good, some are in-different, and some are just plain bad.

The touchstone is does the bill address a situation in need and/or does it provide improved safety for those whom it affects. In other words, is it good public policy?

New Mexico House Bill 128 is just plain bad on so many levels, and it is being hyped in the media for something it is not.

HB 128 requires men who have been convicted of a wide array of sexual crimes to receive a regimen of medication called “chemical castration” before receiving what the media is calling “early release” in the form of parole.

In New Mexico, people incarcerated for a sexual conviction don’t receive early release; they do their full sentences and then are paroled. The bill requires the recipients to pay for their own medication unless they can prove they are indigent. This alone will help create a backlog of cases that will further strain the taxpayer’s burden.

Convicted offenders with housing restrictions are already being held in prison, some long past their release date, until the parole board approves their housing plan. This will add more to that number, those waiting for the treatment, which is complicated and costly, and those waiting to be approved as indigent and **then** waiting for treatment.

[This does not appear to be understood](#) by representatives Stefani Lord and John Block, the sponsors of the bill. Lord said, “Since pedophiles are eligible for early release in New Mexico, for that privilege, they will need to agree to be chemically castrated as a condi-

tion of their parole. If they don’t agree to these terms, they can stay in prison, away from society, and do their entire sentence.”

Her error, aside from her incorrect, misleading, and inflammatory usage of the word “pedophiles,” is: They already do their entire sentence; they are not eligible for “early release”; this will hold them beyond the completion of the sentence. Additionally the bill does not specify crimes against children or victims under a certain age but rather addresses a great many sexual offenses.

Rep. Block said, “With clear science and support from experts in favor of chemical castration of pedophiles, this is the most commonsense legislation to ensure the threat of these criminals is dramatically reduced.” There is [very little support from science and experts](#); most support the opposite; again, the gratuitous use of the word “pedophiles”; the high “threat” alluded to is a fallacy and contradicted by every valid study done.

New Mexico is not unique in proposing this strategy. A handful of states already have it in law, and others are considering it.

California and Florida are cited as being states that mandate its use. The language in [California law, Section 645](#) (1996) states that with a victim under thirteen, the injections “may” be requested by an offender after the first offense, and that after a second like offense, he “shall undergo” the treatment.

[Florida’s statute 794.0235](#) (1997) likewise says it may be requested after a first conviction of any form of sexual battery (794.011) and “shall” be used after a second offense. Unlike California, Florida does not attach an age limit to the prerequisite.

[Louisiana’s law \(14:43.6\)](#) reads very similar to that of Florida with the exception of specifying a victim age of less than thirteen.

[501.061, Texas Penal Code](#), allows the procedure upon request after the 2nd offense of a child under fourteen and has a laundry list of conditions that must be met by anyone requesting it. According to information from Texas Voices, it is virtually never used.

Wisconsin’s NARSOL state contact reports that while [statute 302.11\(1\)\(b\)2](#) states it **may** be a requirement of the DOC or Parole under certain circumstances, DOC says the controversial treatment is currently offered but never required.

[Iowa](#) has language in its laws that allow its usage under certain circumstances, and Georgia and Oregon have allowed the practice in the past if not currently.

[Alabama’s requirement](#) is that all those whose victim was a child under 13 receive the very costly treatment as a condition of release after a first offense and that the cost is borne by the offender, making the Alabama law more stringent than any of the others and with the major features of this proposed New Mexico law with the exception that it addresses children under 13.

It is bad public policy wherever it exists, and for a variety of reasons.

The positive benefits are far below what might conceivably justify its usage, and [the negative effects](#) are medically serious, being associated with various side effects, including osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, impaired glucose and lipid metabolism, depression, hot flashes, infertility, and anemia. **(continue on pg. 4)**



What is your choice?

Do you remember the Encyclopedia Brown Mystery books? They were written for children around the 1970s. They gave a story but the reader was able to choose several story lines as the book progressed. The same book never ended the same way, it was controlled by the reader.

Did it ever occur that our entire life reads like an Encyclopedia Brown story? We make many choices throughout our life that change the course of our lives. Sometimes we don't get to choose our outcome. Sometimes in an Encyclopedia Brown story, however, we could choose a path that brought us back to a beginning.

Seven years ago, my story changed and placed me on the path I am on now. I was charged with a crime that ended up with 180 days in jail, 3 years of probation, and 15 years on the Sex Offender Registry. But life did not end there. I had to carefully choose my next path. I was facing a life of ostracized, isolation, and loneliness. My old friends became distant. I had to worry about where I would live, work, and spend my recreational time. Luckily, I was blessed with a job that set me back into the work force and I had family that helped me keep my house. Two major things that I had to worry about were taken care of. However, electric bills and gas bills were outstanding. My car was about to be repossessed. My Facebook account was shut down. I had to choose new options and I had to make informed decisions. Was I going to go with storyline A) Jon loses his car and has utilities shut down or storyline B) Jon figures out a way to negotiate his way back to equilibrium.

Storyline A was not an option. Storyline B was going to be a challenge. I chose storyline B! I called the gas company. They gave me 2 weeks. The electric company was not sympathetic. I had 5 days...the day AFTER payday. The car company wanted to know where they could come and repossess the car. I managed to hide the car and drive my dad's spare car for a few weeks. I BARELY was able to meet enough of the electric bill payment to keep it on for another week. The gas bill was handled the following week on a payment plan. The car was the amazing part. I made one payment and was told I only owed \$700.00 and they would short sale the car! That was soon handled.

Finally, help with Facebook came in the form of NARSOL connections. I now had other people who share my problems to communicate with. Eventually, I reopened my Facebook under a sudonim and a new web address, the idea was my probation officer's!

Many other storyline were added over the years. I face loneliness daily. Storyline B provided a daily prayer meet through Titus House Ministries. A weekly NARSOL Connections ZOOM meeting provides other interactions. Through these two groups, I have met people I can call 24/7 when I need someone to talk to. I meet people weekly in various cigar lounges where EVERY person is equal based on what is burning in their hands...and real friendships grow. Some would ask why cigars? I don't know, but I love the culture.

Most importantly, I had to realize that through the constant ministry of the Holy Spirit, Jesus has never left me. In fact, He led me to a wonderful church of men and women who were cast out of other churches. There, I have found a home in Christ!

So, faithful Encyclopedia Browners, you have come to a decision. Which storyline have you chosen? Did it take you where you wanted your adventure to go? Never fear...will you next choose Storyline A or will you choose Storyline B? Your choice will make a difference!

God bless you as you choose your next storyline. TRUCKER JON

Trucker Jon



Titus House Ministries

PO Box 2376
Tijeras, NM 87059

Phone: (505) 286-8807

Alice's Cell (505) 259-0867

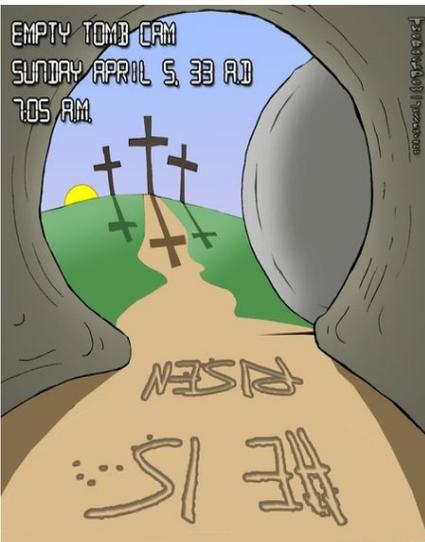
Don's Cell: (505) 315-7940

Email: donmagicjohnston@gmail.com

We're on the Web
titushouseministries.org

Hebrew 13:3 - Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Remember if you change your address you need to let us know if you want to continue to receive this newsletter



Bad Public Policy

The vast majority of the population on whom it is coerced and forced, through more acceptable forms of therapy and self-motivation, will not reoffend sexually.

The moral and constitutional objections are universal and compelling. From a moral and human rights perspective, the general consensus is that it is barbaric and reminiscent of our nation's earlier and darker forays into eugenics. As one study puts it, "... chemical castration under the current laws is vaguely positioned between punishment and treatment due to lack of informed consent by the recipient. . ."

As with the registry and all restrictions that target persons convicted of a sexual offense, the procedure would not result in any significant reduction in future offenses. Most future child molesters are not those already convicted, but rather family members and other trusted individuals who may never even enter the criminal justice system, and to an only slightly lesser degree, this is also true when the victims are adults.

New Mexico is the latest state to consider chemical castration for people convicted of certain sexual offenses, but they are highly unlikely to be the last. This strategy fails many tests, and it fails the biggest one of all: It is NOT good nor effective public policy.

MORNING DEVOTIONAL TIME When your clock tells you it is 7:00 AM whether you are half awake, dressed, fed or whatever, grab your phone, say "HI" and join our morning talk show. It is at 7:00 the current time in NM, perhaps earlier where you are. It lasts ½ hr. to 45 mins. The purpose of this program is sharing of needs, worries or extreme concerns. Don Johnston is the host and gives everyone a chance to express themselves. Others in the group (usually consisting of about 12 people) chime in with suggestions or prayer. Our usual reading comes from a small booklet published by Our Daily Bread Ministries. Feel free to pray for specific personal needs, serious health problems or whatever you believe the group believes God cares about. If you wish to join us and are 18 year of age or older, call 605 475 4092 and follow instructions. Access code is 278954#(pound).



Circle of Concern has gone ZOOM

Circle of Concern is aimed at breaking down isolation and fear by providing a safe place for registrants and their loved ones to get together, build community, and learn ways to step out and take charge of their lives and overcome the stigma they face. The Circle of Concern is a group of concerned registered citizens, family and friends that meet together on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on April 16th 2023 at 3 pm—4 p.m. MST (Mountain Standard Time). We will meet on Zoom. We encourage and try to help each other. It is a safe place to share our strengths and struggles. We hope you will join us. If you are planning to attend call Don at (505) 315-7940.. He will send you the link to join by computer or phone. You can contact him at the number above or email him at donmagicjohnston@gmail.com