

Topic: Prosecution of Registered Sex Offenders

There has been a concerning misconception circulating regarding the prosecution of sex offenders in our county. It's important to address this issue with factual information to ensure clarity and dispel any misunderstandings.

To better understand the issue, it's crucial to understand the broader context of sex offender trends in Idaho. According to statistics from the Idaho State Police, available to the public, all Idaho counties have experienced an increase in the number of sex offenders moving in since I took office in 2009. In fact, Idaho ranks 16th in the nation for the number of registered sex offenders per 100,000 people.

To provide a more localized perspective, it is telling to examine the data from the Idaho State Police for Washington County and neighboring counties. Since I took office in January of 2009, Washington County has seen a 31.43% increase in registered sex offenders, from 35 to 46 individuals. However, neighboring counties have experienced even higher increases, with Gem County increasing by 58.14% (from 43 to 68), Payette County by 70.69% (from 58 to 99), Canyon County by 97.24% (from 471 to 929), and Adams County by a staggering 175% (from 4 to 11).

It's important to recognize that individuals, including sex offenders, have the constitutional right to travel and reside where they choose. However, they are also obligated to disclose their residence to the Idaho State Police through the local Sheriff's Office. Failure to register can result in additional criminal charges.

In our county, whenever our office receives adequate information from law enforcement regarding failure to register, we take action. Over the past 15 years, there has been a net increase of 11 registered sex offenders moving to Washington County. In response, our office has received referrals for charging nine failure to register cases from the Sheriff's office. Of these cases, we have successfully prosecuted seven individuals for failure to register. Our records show that one of the nine charges was referred back to the Sheriff's Office seeking additional information. The case was never filed because the information requested and required for charging was never received. The other one of the nine cases we could not prosecute because no judgment of conviction was available from the charging state that required registration in Idaho.

One challenging case involved prosecuting a homeless sex offender who frequently moved between ours and neighboring counties. Despite the complexities, our office utilized all available resources and laws to ensure justice was served and the community was informed of the individual's whereabouts.

The Washington County Prosecutor's Office reaffirms its unwavering commitment to protecting our community from sex offenders who fail to timely register their location. We remain vigilant in our efforts to uphold the law and safeguard the safety and well-being of all residents. If you are

aware of a registered sex offender living in your neighborhood who has not property registered, please contact law enforcement immediately.

Sincerely,

Delton Walker
Washington County Prosecutor's Office