

A Legislative History of Oklahoma's Sex and Violent Offender Registries

The Sex Offenders Registration Act (1989) and the Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act (2004):
how they were enacted, amended and tested in court through the 2026 session

THE SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRATION ACT • 1989 AND TODAY

From a confidential police list to a web of restrictions

Provision	1989 (H.B. 1136)	Today
Offenses covered	9 statutes	27 statutes, plus out-of-state, federal, tribal and military convictions
How long	10 years for all; 2 after DOC treatment	15 years, 25 years or life by level; life if habitual or aggravated
Who can see it	Police only; closed to the public	Public website; community notification for habitual and aggravated
Ongoing duties	Register with DOC; report moves	Address checks yearly to every 90 days; photo, DNA, internet IDs
Where they live	No restriction	Not within 2,000 ft of schools and colleges, youth-organization sites or camps, public parks playgrounds, child care, or the victim's home; no living with a minor if the victim was a minor
Where they go	No restriction	No loitering within 500 ft of schools, child care, playgrounds or parks, or 1,000 ft of the habitual or aggravated offenders may not enter parks. From Nov. 1, 2026: adds rinks, pools, youth centers, amusement and water parks; habitual or aggravated may not enter any zone
Where they work	No restriction	No work with or services to children, on school grounds, in long-term care, or as a peace investigator or security guard; employers serving children must check the registries yearly
Penalty	Misdemeanor: 1 year, \$1,000	Felony to fail to register (up to 5 yrs, \$5,000) or to live or loiter in a zone; zone of safety now (Crimes)

“Although the 1989 sex offender legislation may have been civil and regulatory, the amendments since then demonstrate a punitive intent.” — Justice Combs, dissenting, Donaldson v. City of El Reno (2025)

Sources: 1989 Okla. Sess. Laws ch. 212, via Donaldson v. City of El Reno, 2025 OK 9 (Combs, J., dissenting); 57 O.S. §§ 582–590; 63 O.S. § 1-1947; 21 O.S. § 1125; HB 3040 (2026).

TWO AMENDMENT RECORDS

One act changes almost every year; the other barely moves

23

amendments to one section of the sex offender act

§ 584, the core registration section, was amended 23 times between 1991 and 2019. The offense list in § 582 has been amended 17 times.

2

amendments to the violent offender crime list

§ 593, which defines who registers under the Mary Rippy Act, was amended only in 2008 and 2009. Bills to expand it have not passed.

TIMELINE

Thirty-seven years in ten milestones

1989 Sex Offenders Registration Act takes effect	1997–99 Habitual and aggravated sex offender designations	2003 First residency and zone of safety limits	2004 Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act	2007 Three-level system and 15, 25 or life terms
2009 Levels locked; close-in-age removal petition	2013 Starkey and companion rulings limit retroactivity	2017 Found to meet federal SORNA standards	2025 Donaldson: residency limits apply to earlier registrants	2026 Zone of safety widened; voyeurism added

Rust: sex offender act Blue: violent offender act Gray: courts and federal

Sources: historical notes to 57 O.S. §§ 582–599 and 21 O.S. § 1125; SMART Office SORNA review (Feb. 2017); Starkey, 2013 OK 43; Donaldson v. City of El Reno, 2025 OK 9.

2025 AND 2026 • ENACTED AND DECIDED

The most recent changes

Feb. 2025 • court

Donaldson v. City of El Reno (5–3): the 2006 park residency rule may apply to earlier registrants. *Nichlos* sets the test for Level 1 removal petitions.

Jan. 1, 2026

Felony reclassification (HB 1792, 2024; Laws 2025, c. 486) restates penalties in both acts as lettered classes.

HB 3040 • 2026

Zone of safety extended to skating rinks, youth centers, pools, arcades and amusement and water parks; habitual and aggravated offenders may not enter any zone. Effective Nov. 1, 2026.

HB 4104 • 2026

Repeat voyeurism and image capture offenses added to the sex offender registry. Signed May 12, 2026.

Sources: NonDoc (Feb. 7, 2025); OCJR; historical notes to 57 O.S. §§ 587, 590, 599; LegiScan and BillTrack50 (HB 3040, HB 4104).

LEVELS AND DURATIONS

How long registration lasts

Category	Registration period	Address verification
Level 1 · low risk	15 years	Every year
Level 2 · moderate risk	25 years	Every 6 months
Level 3 · high risk	Lifetime	Every 90 days
Habitual sex offender (2nd conviction)	Lifetime	Every 90 days
Aggravated sex offender	Lifetime	Every 90 days
Violent offender	10 years	Every year
Habitual violent offender	Lifetime	Every 90 days

Periods run from **sentence completion**: the end of all prison, probation and parole. Levels are assigned by a DOC review committee using federal Adam Walsh Act offense criteria.

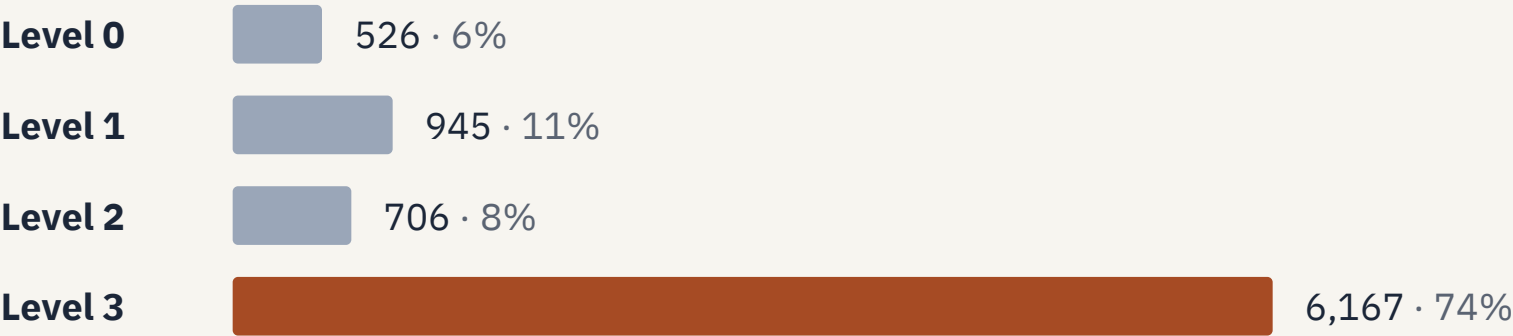
Sources: 57 O.S. §§ 582.5, 583, 584, 595; Oklahoma DOC policy OP-020307.

REGISTRY DATA

Sex Offender Registry Data Base

8,344

registered offenders



Designations, which overlap with the levels above and are not added to the total

Aggravated

6,076

Aggravated and habitual

307

Habitual

437

Source: Oklahoma Department of Corrections spreadsheet, received Sept. 28, 2026.

Sex Offender Registry by offense

OFFENSE GROUP	AGGRAVATED	HABITUAL	
Child sexual abuse and lewd acts	3,842	346	
Rape and rape by instrumentation	2,500	224	
Registry and zone violations	1,398	196	
Sexual battery (over 16)	745	87	
Forcible sodomy, sodomy and incest	570	56	
Child pornography, obscenity and online solicitation	352	134	
Indecent exposure	133	261	
Kidnapping or assault with sexual intent	64	26	
Other: vulnerable-adult abuse, violent crimes, data entry	21	2	
Child prostitution and trafficking	13	5	
All 58 offense rows	9,638	1,337	

Source: Oklahoma Department of Corrections, Numbers of SOR and VOR Registrants (spreadsheet), SOR sheet, received Sept. 28, 2026; all 58 offense rows, grouped.

2000 TO 2005

From registering to restricting

MAY 12, 2003 · C. 209

Zone of safety created

21 O.S. § 1125 bars registrants from loitering near schools, child care centers and victims' homes.

NOV. 1, 2003 · C. 223

First residency restriction

57 O.S. § 590 limits where registered sex offenders may live.

APRIL 26, 2004 · C. 162

The clock restarts

The 10 years now run from completion of the sentence, not from registration, lengthening terms for anyone with long probation or parole.

MAY 17, 2005

GPS for paroled sex offenders

Paroled sex offenders monitored by GPS for their registration period (57 O.S. § 510.10).

REPORTING DEADLINES

The clock registrants work against

3 days

to register with local police after release from prison or after entering Oklahoma

3 business days

before moving, or after a change of job or school enrollment

7 days

how often a registrant without a fixed address must report in person

10 days

to return a signed address verification form

10 days

notice to the new state before moving out of Oklahoma

21 days

notice to DOC before international travel; shared with U.S. Marshals

WHAT REGISTRATION INVOLVES

Information, samples and monitoring

What is collected

- Names and aliases
- Physical address, not a P.O. box
- Employer and school
- Household members
- Internet identities (sex offenders)

Identification

- Photograph and fingerprints at registration
- Photo updated every year
- DNA sample, before release or within 30 days of registering

GPS monitoring

- Habitual or aggravated sex offenders, when a court orders it
- Paroled sex offenders, for the registration period
- Offender pays the cost

PUBLIC ACCESS

How the public learns who is registered

Online registry

DOC publishes both registries on a searchable public website, also linked by the Attorney General and the national registry, NSOPW.

Records on request

Registration files are open during business hours; copies cost 25 cents a page. Local police keep their own lists.

Community notification

For habitual and aggravated offenders, police notify family, prior victims, neighbors, churches, parks, schools and care facilities.

Schools

State and local authorities distribute registry information to schools.

PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE

What a violation costs

Violation	Class	Maximum punishment
Failing to register or report (sex offender)	B5 felony	5 years and/or \$5,000
Failing to register or report (violent offender)	D1 felony	Prison and/or \$5,000
Living within 2,000 feet (first offense)	B5 felony	1 to 3 years and/or \$3,000
Living within 2,000 feet (repeat)	B2 felony	At least 3 years and/or \$3,000
Entering a zone of safety	D1 felony	Prison and/or \$2,500
Prohibited employment	Misdemeanor	\$1,000

Felony classes come from the Oklahoma Crime Reclassification Act (HB 1792, 2024), in effect since **January 1, 2026**.

Sources: 57 O.S. §§ 587, 589, 590, 599; 21 O.S. § 1125 (2025 text); HB 1792 (2024).

LEAVING THE REGISTRY

Narrow paths off the list

Term expires

Level 1, Level 2 and violent offenders come off when their 15, 25 or 10 years after sentence completion run out.

Level 1 petition • § 583(E)

After 10 years registered with no arrest or conviction since release, a Level 1 registrant may ask the district court for removal.

Close-in-age petition • § 590.2

One rape conviction, no more than 4 years older than a victim aged 14 to 17. Extended to out-of-state convictions by *Nitz* (2017).

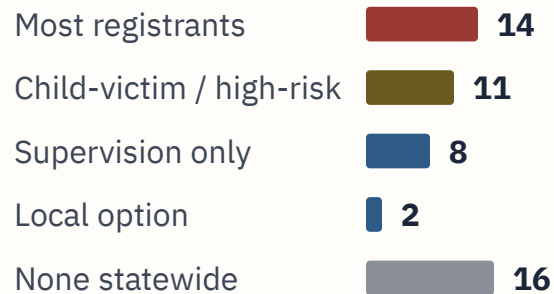
Civil suit against DOC

Declaratory and injunctive relief when the law at conviction or entry no longer requires registration.

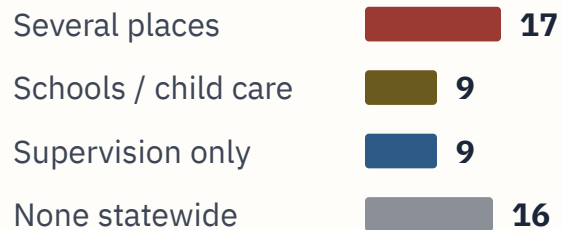
STATE COMPARISON • 50 STATES AND DC

Oklahoma restricts where registrants live, go and work

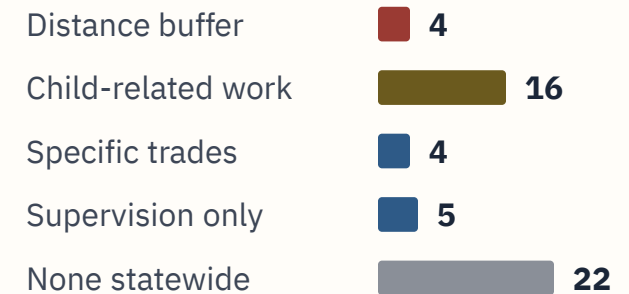
Residency



Safety zones



Employment



SORNA COMPLIANT • 18 STATES

Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Wyoming

Sources: SMART Office list of jurisdictions that have substantially implemented SORNA; state statutes (see the following slides and the Registry Rules by State page).

SORNA-compliant states

STATE	SORNA COMPLIANT	BASELINE TIERS (YRS)	RESIDENCY	ZONE OF SAFETY	WORK	REMOVAL POSSIBLE
Oklahoma	●	15 / 25 / Life	● 2,000 ft	● 500 ft	With children	●
Alabama	●	Life	● 2,000 ft	● 500 ft	● 2,000 ft	Narrow
Colorado	●	Life		Supervision only		●
Delaware	●	15 / 25 / Life	● 500 ft	Schools only · 500 ft		●
Florida	●	Life	Child victims · 1,000 ft	● 300 ft	With children	●
Kansas	●	15 / 25 / Life				
Louisiana	●	15 / 25 / Life	Child victims · 1,000 ft	Schools only · 500 ft	Certain jobs	●
Maryland	●	15 / 25 / Life		Schools only	With children	●
Michigan	●	15 / 25 / Life				●
Mississippi	●	Life	● 3,000 ft	● 500 ft		●
Missouri	●	15 / 25 / Life	● 1,000 ft	● 500 ft	With children	●
Nevada	●	15 / 25 / Life	Supervision only	Supervision only	Supervision only	●
Ohio	●	15 / 25 / Life	● 1,000 ft			●
South Carolina	●	Life	Child victims · 1,000 ft			●
South Dakota	●	Life	● 500 ft	● 500 ft		Narrow
Tennessee	●	Life	● 1,000 ft	● 1,000 ft	● 1,000 ft	●
Virginia	●	Court order / Life	Child victims · 500 ft	● 100 ft	With children	●
Wyoming	●	Life	● 1,000 ft	Schools only · 1,000 ft		●

● = yes; blank = no statewide rule. Feet = largest buffer set. Text marks a narrower rule. Removal: ● = petition or court route; Narrow = few offenses qualify. SORNA per SMART Office. Citations: Registry Rules by State page.

States not SORNA compliant: Alaska to Montana

STATE	SORNA COMPLIANT	BASELINE TIERS (YRS)	RESIDENCY	ZONE OF SAFETY	WORK	REMOVAL POSSIBLE
Oklahoma	●	15 / 25 / Life	● 2,000 ft	● 500 ft	With children	●
Alaska		15 / Life				●
Arizona		10 / Life	Child victims · 1,000 ft			Narrow
Arkansas		Life	Child victims · 2,000 ft	● 100 ft	With children	●
California		10 / 20 / Life	Supervision only	Schools only	With children	●
Connecticut		10 / Life		Supervision only		
District of Columbia		10 / Life		Supervision only	Supervision only	
Georgia		Life	● 1,000 ft	●	● 1,000 ft	●
Hawaii		Life		Supervision only	Supervision only	●
Idaho		Life	● 500 ft	Schools only · 500 ft	With children	●
Illinois		10 / Life	Child victims · 500 ft	● 500 ft	With children	
Indiana		10 / Life	Child victims · 1,000 ft	Schools only	With children	
Iowa		10 / Life	Child victims · 2,000 ft	● 300 ft	With children	●
Kentucky		20 / Life	● 1,000 ft	● 1,000 ft		
Maine		10 / 25 / Life	Local option	●		
Massachusetts		20 / Life			Certain jobs	●
Minnesota		10 / Life				
Montana		Life	Child victims · 300 ft		● 300 ft	●

● = yes; blank = no statewide rule. Feet = largest buffer set. Text marks a narrower rule. Removal: ● = petition or court route; Narrow = few offenses qualify. SORNA per SMART Office. Citations: Registry Rules by State page.

States not SORNA compliant: Nebraska to Wisconsin

STATE	SORNA COMPLIANT	BASELINE TIERS (YRS)	RESIDENCY	ZONE OF SAFETY	WORK	REMOVAL POSSIBLE
Oklahoma	●	15 / 25 / Life	● 2,000 ft	● 500 ft	With children	●
Nebraska		15 / 25 / Life	Local option			●
New Hampshire		10 / Life			With children	●
New Jersey		Life			With children	●
New Mexico		10 / Life				
New York		20 / Life	Supervision only	Supervision only	Certain jobs	●
North Carolina		30 / Life	● 1,000 ft	● 300 ft	With children	●
North Dakota		15 / 25 / Life	Child victims · 500 ft	Schools only		
Oregon		Life	Supervision only	●		●
Pennsylvania		15 / 25 / Life				
Rhode Island		10 / Life	● 300 ft			
Texas		10 / Life	Supervision only	Supervision only	Certain jobs	●
Utah		10 / Life		●	With children	●
Vermont		10 / Life				
Washington		10 / 15 / Indefinite	Supervision only	Supervision only	Supervision only	●
West Virginia		10 / Life	Supervision only	Supervision only	Supervision only	
Wisconsin		15 / Life	Supervision only	Schools only	With children	Narrow

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2004 • HB 1853 • LAWS 2004, C. 358

The Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act

Why it was passed

Named for an 83-year-old Oklahoman strangled by a neighbor who had prior convictions for first-degree manslaughter and felony firearm possession.

Origin as described by an Oklahoma law firm; not confirmed in legislative records.

What it did

- Effective Nov. 1, 2004
- Covered murder, manslaughter, assault with intent to kill, bombing, certain child abuse
- 10 years of registration; life for habitual violent offenders
- Modeled on the sex offender act: DOC registry, local police

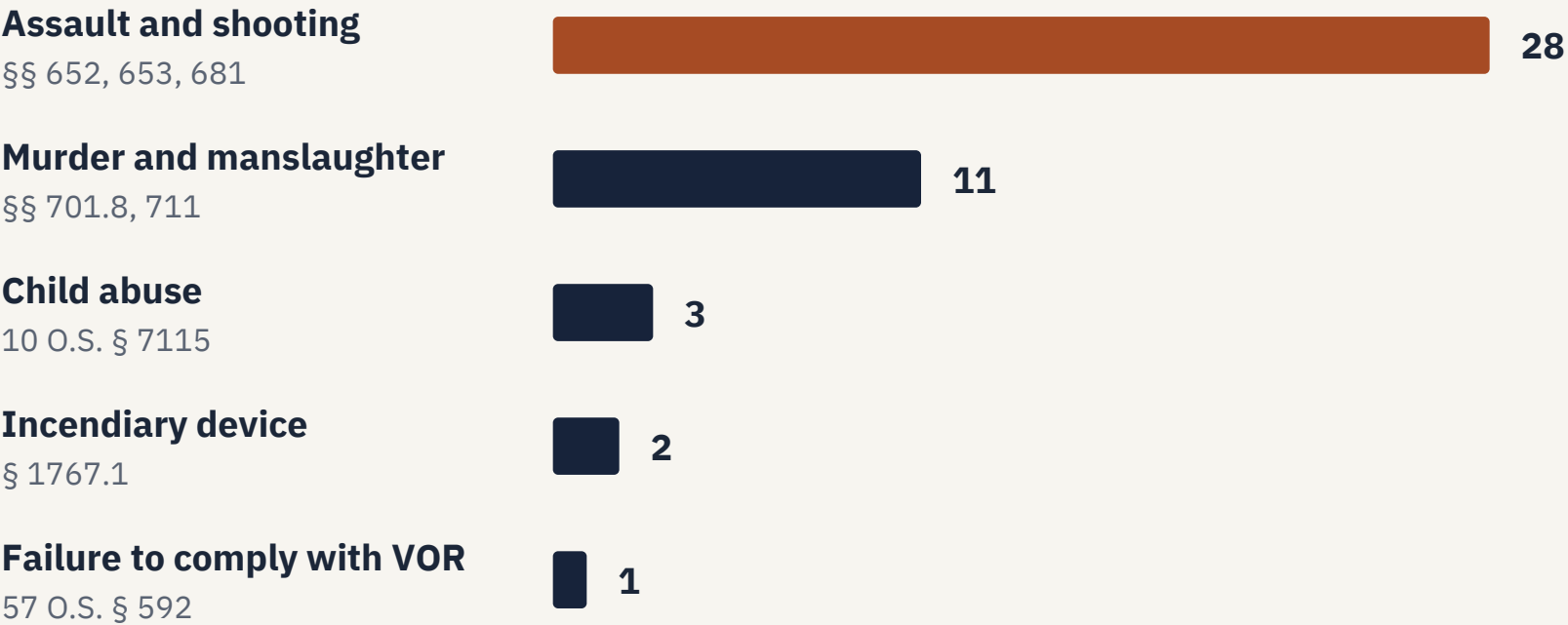
Sources: Enrolled HB 1853 (2004), by Reps. Turner and Adkins; historical notes to 57 O.S. §§ 591–599; Oklahoma Criminal Registries (Oklahoma Criminal Defense).

Violent Offender Registry by offense

45

habitual violent offenders,
across 13 offense codes

Aggravated: 0



FOR DISCUSSION

Questions the history raises

1. Should levels rest on the offense alone, or on an individualized risk assessment, and should they ever go down?
2. Should there be more paths off the registry, as HB 3606 proposed?
3. What have 2,000-foot residency limits done to housing and to the number of transient registrants?
4. How will the places added by HB 3040 be identified and enforced?
5. After Starkey and Donaldson, which requirements may apply to people registered before them?
6. Should domestic violence offenses join a registry, and which one?
7. How many people are on each registry, by level, and how many are out of compliance?

Sources

Statutes, policy and cases

- 57 O.S. § 581 et seq. and § 591 et seq., with historical notes (2025 ed.)
- 21 O.S. § 1125, with historical notes
- Enrolled HB 1853 (2004)
- Oklahoma DOC policy OP-020307 (rev. Mar. 17, 2022)
- SMART Office, Oklahoma SORNA Substantial Implementation Review (Feb. 2017)
- SMART Office list of jurisdictions that have substantially implemented SORNA; state residency, safety-zone and employment statutes for all 50 states and DC (cited on the Registry Rules by State page); Probation Information Network state pages (2025)
- Starkey, 2013 OK 43, and 2013 companions: Hendricks (OK 71), Bollin (OK 72), Cerniglia (OK 81), Osburn (OK 89), Luster (OK 97), Butler (OK 105)
- State v. Hurt, 2014 OK CR 17; Davis, 2016 OK CIV APP 23; Nitz, 2017 OK CIV APP 20; Fry, 2017 OK 77; Nichlos, 2025 OK CIV APP 35; Donaldson (Okla. Feb. 4, 2025)
- SOR case summary memo provided by Sen. Daniels

Legislation and reporting

- LegiScan and BillTrack50: HB 3040, HB 3243, HB 3606, HB 4104, HB 1322, SB 1730 (2026); SB 864 (2025); SB 1326 (2024)
- Oklahoma Senate press releases: SB 2064 (2010), SB 217 (2017)
- Oklahoma House news, Mar. 11, 2026; Fox 25, May 2026
- OCJR on HB 1792 (2024)
- FastDemocracy, CNHI News, The Frontier (HB 2608, 2023)
- NonDoc, Feb. 7, 2025; McCarville Report, Nov. 12, 2012; Wirth Law Office case summaries