

NOTE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Community notification of sex offenders is the responsibility of the law enforcement agencies. The posting of this information is required by law and is available on the Delaware State Police Sex Offender Registry website, <http://desexoffender.dsp.delaware.gov/SexOffenderPublic>. By law, all adults or juveniles who are convicted or adjudicated of specific sex offenses are registered. Please note that not all sex offenders are child predators or pose a threat to children.

School districts and charter schools must keep notifications of registered sex offenders received from the police in a binder in each school. They must follow guidelines for distribution of the notifications they receive. The guidelines will be available at www.doe.state.de.us or www.state.de.us/kids.

The notification may assist you in protecting your family. It is best that only parents and guardians share this information in an age-appropriate manner with their child or children so that the child will understand appropriate actions for their safety.

Parents and guardians should use this information in an age-appropriate way that helps children with personal safety but does not overwhelm the child. Prevent Child Abuse Delaware, a local nonprofit agency, has developed the following list of safety tips to assist parents/guardians in helping their child feel safe:

- Review safety rules for your home. Tell your child not to answer the door when you are not home and establish a plan for answering the telephone.
- Make a list with your child of three safe grown-ups he/she can talk to if afraid or in trouble and you are not there. Talk with your child about which places in your community are safe to visit and which are not.
- Review with your child the four private places (i.e., the mouth, the breasts, the genitalia, and the buttocks). Explain that no one should touch these places unless they are helping to keep the child healthy (e.g., an exam by a doctor) or clean (e.g., bathing).
- Encourage your child to tell you if he/she is talked to or touched by someone in a way that makes your child feel bad or that he/she doesn't like.
- Encourage open discussion with your child about his/her willingness to talk to grown-ups in your family about the things that bother him/her.
- Determine if your child knows that the grown-ups in your family will listen to him/her. Ask yourself honestly if this is true: Do you and other adults in your family really listen to the children in your care?
- Tell your child that it is not the his/her fault if someone tries to bother him/her or touch him/her in a way he/she doesn't like.
- Let your child know how special you think he/she is, encourage him/her to think of himself/herself as a person who is worthy of respect and who also respects others. Treat and talk with your child in a way that conveys your respect.

If you would like further information on how to keep your child safe, you can speak with the school guidance counselor or contact Prevent Child Abuse Delaware at 302-254-4611.

For more information about the Sex Offenders Registry, contact Delaware State Police at 302-739-5882.

If you have questions about an enclosed notification or specific offenders, please contact your local police.

Report child abuse by calling 800-292-9582. Do report emergencies by calling 911.

Do not post this notification publicly or where non-family members may see it. Remember, it is best for children to get this information from their parents and guardians.

Do not take any action that may in any way harm or harass the offender or the offender's family, household members, or employer. Do not attempt to harass the offender or make unsolicited, unwanted contact. If you believe anyone is a physical threat to you or children in your care, please contact the local police.

Please use the information responsibly for the safety and well-being of those in your care.

Anyone who uses this information to commit a crime against another person is subject to criminal prosecution.