Section 46-18-255 and this part may be cited as the "Sexual or Violent Offender Registration Act".

46-23-502, MCA (2013)

46-23-502 Definitions.

As used in 46-18-255 and this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Department" means the department of corrections provided for in 2-15-2301.

(2) "Mental abnormality" means a congenital or acquired condition that affects the mental, emotional, or volitional capacity of a person in a manner that predisposes the person to the commission of one or more sexual offenses to a degree that makes the person a menace to the health and safety of other persons.

(3) "Municipality" means an entity that has incorporated as a city or town.

(4) "Personality disorder" means a personality disorder as defined in the fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders adopted by the American psychiatric association.

(5) "Predatory sexual offense" means a sexual offense committed against a stranger or against a person with whom a relationship has been established or furthered for the primary
purpose of victimization.

(6) "Registration agency" means:

(a) if the offender resides in a municipality, the police department of that municipality; or

(b) if the offender resides in a place other than a municipality, the sheriff's office of the county in which the offender resides.

(7) (a) "Residence" means the location at which a person regularly resides, regardless of the number of days or nights spent at that location, that can be located by a street address, including a house, apartment building, motel, hotel, or recreational or other vehicle.

(b) The term does not mean a homeless shelter.

(8) "Sexual offender evaluator" means a person qualified under rules established by the department to conduct sexual offender and sexually violent predator evaluations.

(9) "Sexual offense" means:

(a) any violation of or attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a violation of 45-5-301 (if the victim is less than 18 years of age and the offender is not a parent of the victim), 45-5-302 (if the victim is less than 18 years of age and the offender is not a parent of the victim), 45-5-303 (if the victim is less than 18 years of age and the offender is not a parent of the victim), 45-5-310, 45-5-311, 45-5-502(3) (if the victim is less than 16 years of age and the offender is 3 or more years older than the victim), 45-5-503, 45-5-504(1) (if the victim is under 18 years of age and the offender is 18 years of age or older), 45-5-504(2)(c), 45-5-507 (if the victim is under 18 years of age and the offender is 3 or more years older than the victim or if the victim is 12 years of age or younger and the offender is 18 years of age or older at the time of the offense), 45-5-601(3), 45-5-602(3), 45-5-603(1)(b) or (2)(b), or 45-5-625; or

(b) any violation of a law of another state, a tribal government, or the federal government that is reasonably equivalent to a violation listed in subsection (9)(a) or for which the offender was required to register as a sexual offender after an adjudication or conviction.

(10) "Sexual or violent offender" means a person who has been convicted of or, in youth court, found to have committed or been adjudicated for a sexual or violent offense.

(11) "Sexually violent predator" means a person who:

(a) has been convicted of or, in youth court, found to have committed or been adjudicated for a sexual offense and who suffers from a mental abnormality or a personality disorder that makes the person likely to engage in predatory sexual offenses; or

(b) has been convicted of a sexual offense against a victim 12 years of age or younger and the offender is 18 years of age or older.

(12) "Transient" means an offender who has no residence.

(13) "Violent offense" means:

(a) any violation of or attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a violation of 45-5-
102, 45-5-103, 45-5-202, 45-5-206 (third or subsequent offense), 45-5-210(1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), 45-5-212, 45-5-213, 45-5-302 (if the victim is not a minor), 45-5-303 (if the victim is not a minor), 45-5-401, 45-6-103, or 45-9-132; or

(b) any violation of a law of another state, a tribal government, or the federal government reasonably equivalent to a violation listed in subsection (13)(a).  

46-23-503, MCA (2013)

46-23-503  Release of sexual or violent offender from place of confinement -- duties of official in charge.

(1) A sexual or violent offender who is released from the custody of the department of corrections must be informed in writing not less than 10 days prior to release of the duty to register under this part by the official in charge of the place of confinement.

(2) Prior to the offender’s release from custody, the official shall obtain and give to the department of justice and to the sheriff of the county in which the offender intends to reside or, if the offender intends to reside in a municipality, to the chief of police of the municipality:

(a) the address at which the offender intends to reside upon release from the department’s custody;

(b) the offender's fingerprints and photo, unless they are already in the possession of the department of justice, sheriff, or chief of police; and

(c) a form signed by and read to or by the offender stating that the offender's duty to register under this part has been explained to the offender.

46-23-504, MCA (2013)

46-23-504  Persons required to register -- procedure.

(1) Except as provided in 41-5-1513, a sexual or violent offender:

(a) shall register immediately upon conclusion of the sentencing hearing if the offender is not sentenced to confinement or is not sentenced to the department and placed in confinement by the department;

(b) must be registered as provided in 46-23-503 at least 10 days prior to release from confinement if sentenced to confinement or sentenced to the department and placed in confinement by the department;

(c) shall register within 3 business days of entering a county of this state for the purpose of residing or setting up a temporary residence for 10 days or more or for an aggregate period exceeding 30 days in a calendar year; and

(d) who is a transient shall register within 3 business days of entering a county of this state.

(2) Registration under subsection (1)(a), (1)(c), or (1)(d) must be with the appropriate registration agency. If an offender registers with a police department, the department shall
notify the sheriff's office of the county in which the municipality is located of the
registration. The probation officer having supervision over an offender required to register
under subsection (1)(a) shall verify the offender's registration status with the appropriate
registration agency.

(3) At the time of registering, the offender shall sign a statement in writing giving the
information required by subsections (3)(a) through (3)(g) and any other information
required by the department of justice. The registration agency shall fingerprint the offender,
unless the offender's fingerprints are on file with the department of justice, photograph the
offender, and obtain a DNA sample from the offender. Within 3 days, the registration
agency shall send copies of the statement, fingerprints, and photographs to the department
of justice. The registration agency shall send the DNA sample to the department of justice
for analysis and entry of the DNA record into the DNA identification index. The registration
agency shall require an offender given a level 2 or level 3 designation to appear before the
registration agency for a new photograph every year. The information collected from the
offender at the time of registration must include the:

(a) name of the offender and any aliases used by the offender;
(b) offender's social security number;
(c) residence information required by subsection (4);
(d) name and address of any business or other place where the offender is or will be an
employee;
(e) name and address of any school where the offender will be a student;
(f) offender's driver's license number; and
(g) description and license number of any motor vehicle owned or operated by the
offender.

(4) (a) If, at the time of registration, the offender regularly resides in more than one
county or municipality, the offender shall register with the registration agency of each
county or municipality in which the offender resides. If an offender resides in more than one
location within the same county or municipality, the registration agency may require the
offender to provide all of the locations where the offender regularly resides and to designate
one of them as the offender's primary residence.

(b) Registration of more than one residence pursuant to this section is an exception from
the single residence rule provided in 1-1-215.

(5) A transient shall report monthly, in person, to the registration agency with which the
transient registered pursuant to subsection (1)(d). The transient shall report on a day
specified by the registration agency and during the normal business hours of that agency.
On that day, the transient shall provide the registration agency with the information listed in
subsections (3)(a) through (3)(g). The registration agency to which the transient reports
may also require the transient to provide the locations where the transient stayed during
the previous 30 days and may stay during the next 30 days.

(6) (a) The department of justice shall mail a registration verification form:
(i) each 90 days to an offender designated as a level 3 offender under 46-23-509;
(ii) each 180 days to an offender designated as a level 2 offender under 46-23-509; and
(iii) each year to a violent offender or an offender designated as a level 1 offender under 46-23-509.

(b) If the offender is a transient, the department of justice shall mail the offender's registration verification form to the registration agency with which the offender last registered.

(c) The form must require the offender's notarized signature. Within 10 days after receipt of the form, the offender shall complete the form and return it to the registration agency where the offender last registered or, if the offender was initially registered pursuant to subsection (1)(b), to the registration agency in the county or municipality in which the offender is located. A sexual offender shall return the form to the appropriate registration agency in person, and at the time that the sexual offender returns the registration verification form, the registration agency shall take a photograph of the offender and collect a DNA sample if one has not already been collected. The registration agency shall send the DNA sample to the department of justice for analysis and entry into the DNA identification index.

(7) Within 3 days after receipt of a registration verification form, the registration agency shall provide a copy of the form and most recent photograph to the department of justice.

(8) The offender is responsible, if able to pay, for costs associated with registration. The fees charged for registration may not exceed the actual costs of registration. The department of justice may adopt a rule establishing fees to cover registration costs incurred by the department of justice in maintaining registration and address verification records. The fees must be deposited in the general fund.

(9) The clerk of the district court in the county in which a person is convicted of a sexual or violent offense shall notify the sheriff in that county of the conviction within 10 days after entry of the judgment.


46-23-505, MCA (2013)

46-23-505 Notice of change of name or residence or student, employment, or transient status -- duty to inform -- forwarding of information.

(1) If an offender required to register under this part has a change of name or residence or a change in student, employment, or transient status, the offender shall within 3 business days of the change appear in person and give notification of the change to the registration agency with whom the offender last registered or, if the offender was initially registered under 46-23-504(1)(b), to the registration agency for the county or municipality from which the offender is moving. The registration agency shall require the offender to appear before the registration agency for a new photograph every year.
(2) If an offender required to register under this part is a transient, the offender shall provide written notification to the registration agency with which the offender last registered or, if the offender initially registered pursuant to 46-23-504(1)(b), shall provide notice within 3 business days to the registration agency in the county or municipality in which the offender resides.

(3) Within 3 business days after receipt of the information concerning the new name or residence or a change in the student, employment, or transient status, the registration agency shall forward the information to the department of justice, which shall forward a copy of the information and photograph to:

(a) in the event of a change in residence, the registration agency for the county to which the offender moves and, if the offender lives in a municipality, the registration agency for that municipality to which the offender moves;

(b) in the event of a change of name or of student, employment, or transient status, the registration agency of the appropriate county or municipality.

(4) If an offender who is required to register under this part is physically absent from the offender's county of residence for more than 10 consecutive days, the offender shall register in the county where the offender is physically located on the 11th day even if the offender claims to maintain a residence, as defined in 46-23-502, in that county. The offender shall register again in the offender's county of residence when the offender returns to that county.

(5) If an offender is required to register under subsection (4), the offender shall register in any subsequent county where the offender is present for more than 24 hours until the offender registers again in the offender's county of residence.

**History:** En. Sec. 6, Ch. 293, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 407, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 375, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 313, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 254, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 483, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 283, L. 2013.

46-23-506, MCA (2013)

46-23-506 Duration of registration.

(1) A sexual offender required to register under this part shall register for the remainder of the offender's life, except as provided in subsection (3) or during a period of time during which the offender is in prison.

(2) A violent offender required to register under this part shall register:

(a) for the 10 years following release from confinement or, if not confined following sentencing, for the 10 years following the conclusion of the sentencing hearing, but the offender is not relieved of the duty to register until a petition is granted under subsection (3)(a); or

(b) if convicted during the 10-year period provided in subsection (2)(a) of failing to register or keep registration current or of a felony, for the remainder of the offender's life unless relieved of the duty to register as provided in subsection (3)(b).
(3) (a) An offender required to register for 10 years under subsection (2)(a) may, after the 10 years have passed, petition the sentencing court or the district court for the judicial district in which the offender resides for an order relieving the offender of the duty to register. The petition must be served on the county attorney in the county where the petition is filed. The petition must be granted if the defendant has not been convicted under subsection (2)(b).

(b) Except as provided in subsection (5), at any time after 10 years of registration for a level 1 sexual offender and at any time after 25 years of registration for a level 2 sexual offender, an offender may petition the sentencing court or the district court for the judicial district in which the offender resides for an order relieving the offender of the duty to register. The petition must be served on the county attorney in the county where the petition is filed. Prior to a hearing on the petition, the county attorney shall mail a copy of the petition to the victim of the last offense for which the offender was convicted if the victim's address is reasonably available. The court shall consider any written or oral statements of the victim. The court may grant the petition upon finding that:

(i) the offender has remained a law-abiding citizen; and

(ii) continued registration is not necessary for public protection and that relief from registration is in the best interests of society.

(4) The offender may move that all or part of the proceedings in a hearing under subsection (3) be closed to the public, or the judge may close them on the judge's own motion. If a proceeding under subsection (3)(b) is closed to the public, the judge shall permit a victim of the offense to be present unless the judge determines that exclusion of the victim is necessary to protect the offender's right of privacy or the safety of the victim. If the victim is present, the judge, at the victim's request, shall permit the presence of an individual to provide support to the victim unless the judge determines that exclusion of the individual is necessary to protect the offender's right to privacy.

(5) Subsection (3) does not apply to an offender who was convicted of:

(a) a violation of 45-5-503 if:

(i) the victim was compelled to submit by force, as defined in 45-5-501, against the victim or another; or

(ii) at the time the offense occurred, the victim was under 12 years of age;

(b) a violation of 45-5-507 if at the time the offense occurred the victim was under 12 years of age and the offender was 3 or more years older than the victim;

(c) a second or subsequent sexual offense that requires registration; or

(d) a sexual offense and was designated as a sexually violent predator under 46-23-509.

46-23-507, MCA (2013)

46-23-507 Penalty.

A sexual or violent offender who knowingly fails to register, verify registration, or keep registration current under this part may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not
more than 5 years or may be fined not more than $10,000, or both.

46-23-508, MCA (2013)

46-23-508  Dissemination of information.

   (1) Information maintained under this part is confidential criminal justice information, as defined in 44-5-103, except that:

(a) the name and address of a registered sexual or violent offender are public criminal justice information, as defined in 44-5-103; and

(b) the department of justice or the registration agency shall release any offender registration information that it possesses relevant to the public if the department of justice or the registration agency determines that a registered offender is a risk to the safety of the community and that disclosure of the registration information that it possesses may protect the public and, at a minimum:

(i) if the offender is also a violent offender, the department of justice shall and the registration agency may disseminate to the victim and the public:

   (A) the offender's name; and

   (B) the offenses for which the offender is required to register under this part;

(ii) if an offender was given a level 1 designation under 46-23-509, the department of justice shall and the registration agency may disseminate to the victim and the public:

   (A) the offender's address;

   (B) the name, photograph, and physical description of the offender;

   (C) the offender's date of birth; and

   (D) the offenses for which the offender is required to register under this part;

(iii) if an offender was given a level 1 designation and committed an offense against a minor or was given a level 2 designation under 46-23-509, the department of justice shall and the registration agency may disseminate to the victim and the public:

   (A) the offender's address;

   (B) the type of victim targeted by the offense;

   (C) the name, photograph, and physical description of the offender;

   (D) the offender's date of birth;

   (E) the license plate number and a description of any motor vehicle owned or operated by the offender;

   (F) the offenses for which the offender is required to register under this part; and
(G) any conditions imposed by the court upon the offender for the safety of the public; and

(iv) if an offender was given a level 3 designation under 46-23-509, the department of justice and the registration agency shall give the victim and the public notification that includes the information contained in subsection (1)(b)(iii). The notification must also include the date of the offender's release from confinement or, if not confined, the date the offender was sentenced, with a notation that the offender was not confined, and must include the community in which the offense occurred.

(c) prior to release of information under subsection (1)(b), a registration agency may, in its sole discretion, request an in camera review by a district court of the determination by the registration agency under subsection (1)(b). The court shall review a request under this subsection (1)(c) and shall, as soon as possible, render its opinion so that release of the information is not delayed beyond release of the offender from confinement.

(2) The identity of a victim of an offense for which registration is required under this part may not be released by a registration agency without the permission of the victim.

(3) Dissemination to the public of information allowed or required by this section may be done by newspaper, paper flyers, the internet, or any other media determined by the disseminating entity. In determining the method of dissemination, the disseminating entity should consider the level of risk posed by the offender to the public.

(4) The department of justice shall develop a model community notification policy to assist registration agencies in implementing the dissemination provisions of this section.

46-23-509, MCA (2013)

46-23-509 Sexual offender evaluations and designations -- rulemaking authority.

(1) The department shall adopt rules for the qualification of sexual offender evaluators who conduct sexual offender and sexually violent predator evaluations and for determinations by sexual offender evaluators of the risk of a repeat offense and the threat that an offender poses to the public safety.

(2) Prior to sentencing of a person convicted of a sexual offense, the department or a sexual offender evaluator shall provide the court with a sexual offender evaluation report recommending one of the following levels of designation for the offender:

(a) level 1, the risk of a repeat sexual offense is low;

(b) level 2, the risk of a repeat sexual offense is moderate;

(c) level 3, the risk of a repeat sexual offense is high, there is a threat to public safety, and the sexual offender evaluator believes that the offender is a sexually violent predator.

(3) Upon sentencing the offender, the court shall:

(a) review the sexual offender evaluation report, any statement by a victim, and any statement by the offender;

(b) designate the offender as level 1, 2, or 3; and
(c) designate a level 3 offender as a sexually violent predator.

(4) An offender designated as a level 2 offender or given a level designation by another state, the federal government, or the department under subsection (6) that is determined by the court to be similar to level 2 may petition the sentencing court or the district court for the judicial district in which the offender resides to change the offender's designation if the offender has enrolled in and successfully completed the treatment phase of either the prison's sexual offender treatment program or of an equivalent program approved by the department. After considering the petition, the court may change the offender's risk level designation if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the offender's risk of committing a repeat sexual offense has changed since the time sentence was imposed. The court shall impose one of the three risk levels specified in this section.

(5) If, at the time of sentencing, the sentencing judge did not apply a level designation to a sexual offender who is required to register under this part and who was sentenced prior to October 1, 1997, the department shall designate the offender as level 1, 2, or 3 when the offender is released from confinement.

(6) If an offense is covered by 46-23-502(9)(b), the offender registers under 46-23-504(1)(c), and the offender was given a risk level designation after conviction by another state or the federal government, the department of justice may give the offender the risk level designation assigned by the other state or the federal government.

(7) The lack of a fixed residence is a factor that may be considered by the sentencing court or by the department in determining the risk level to be assigned to an offender pursuant to this section.

(8) Upon obtaining information that indicates that a sexual offender who is required to register under this part does not have a level 1, 2, or 3 designation, the attorney general, the county attorney that prosecuted the offender and obtained a conviction for a sexual offense, or the county attorney for the county in which the offender resides may, at any time, petition the district court that sentenced the offender for a sexual offense or the district court for the judicial district in which the offender resides to designate the offender as level 1, 2, or 3. Upon the filing of the petition, the court may order a sexual offender evaluation report at the petitioner's expense. The court shall provide the offender with an opportunity for a hearing prior to designating the offender. The petitioner shall provide the offender with notice of the petition and notice of the hearing.

**History:** En. Sec. 12, Ch. 375, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 358, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 22, Sp. L. August 2002; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 313, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 483, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 182, L. 2013.

46-23-510, MCA (2013)

46-23-510 Expungement of records on reversal of conviction.

Upon final reversal of a conviction of a sexual or violent offense, the sentencing court shall order the expungement of any records kept by a court, law enforcement agency, or other state or local government agency under this part.

46-23-511, MCA (2013)
46-23-511 Immunity from suit.

A state or local governmental entity, a private entity, or an officer or employee of an entity is not liable in negligence, except gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct, for damages arising from a good faith discretionary release or dissemination of or good faith failure to release or disseminate information under this part.

46-23-512, MCA (2013)

46-23-512 Plea agreement agreeing to compliance with this part.

A defendant convicted of an offense that would otherwise not be subject to registration under this part may agree to comply with the registration requirements of this part as part of a plea agreement, and a court accepting the plea agreement may order the defendant to comply with this part.

46-23-513, MCA (2013)

46-23-513 through 46-23-519 reserved.

46-23-520, MCA (2013)

46-23-520 Sexual or violent offender community education curriculum.

(1) The department of justice shall develop a statewide community education curriculum regarding release of sexual or violent offenders into a community.

(2) The curriculum developed under subsection (1) must contain information:

(a) for communities and neighborhoods regarding the provisions of this part as it relates to sexual or violent offenders, including the rights of residents of a community into which a sexual or violent offender is released and the duties and roles under this part of the department, law enforcement agencies, and the offender; and

(b) for families and children regarding personal safety, including potential warning signs that may help to avoid victimization.

(3) The curriculum developed under this section must be made available to law enforcement agencies, school districts, local governments, and other entities determined by the department of justice to be in a position to educate the public on the subject of the release of a sexual or violent offender into a community. The curriculum may be disseminated by any appropriate means, written or electronic, including by the internet.