

Getting Off the Copycat Registries

A practical action plan for removing your name and information from unofficial "sex offender registry" websites after removal from the official Michigan registry. Prepared September 13, 2026. This is general information compiled from published sources, not legal advice — for anything with deadlines or litigation, consult a licensed Michigan attorney.

1. Your Situation Is Different — And That's Your Advantage

On September 9, 2026, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that the 2021 Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA) amendments cannot be applied retroactively. The Michigan State Police issued a statement on September 11, 2026 confirming it has begun removing affected individuals from the official registry to comply.

Copycat registry sites defend themselves by claiming they merely republish public records. Once you are off the official Michigan registry, that defense dies: their pages about you are no longer public records — they are false statements of fact. Under Michigan law, a false accusation of a serious crime is defamation per se (damages presumed). Every removal request you send should carry the court ruling and the MSP statement as attachments. You are not a complainant asking a favor; you are a person with a court order.

First step before anything else: verify you are actually gone from the MSP public site (the website of Michigan's Sex Offender Registration Act program). Removal is being processed in batches. Your letters are strongest once the official listing is confirmed gone.

2. The Playbook, Step by Step

Step 0 — Preserve evidence BEFORE contacting anyone

Screenshot every page about you with the URL and date visible. Archive each URL at web.archive.org (Save Page Now) so a Wayback capture exists. Copycat sites delete and re-post content when they sense pressure — you want proof it existed before they were notified. Also run a baseline search: your name in Google, Bing, and DuckDuckGo, plus your name + city.

Step 1 — Inventory every site

Search Google, Bing, and DuckDuckGo for your name, your name + city, and your name + "offender." Check the known copycat sites directly. Keep a tracking sheet: site name, exact URL, contact method used, date sent, response, status. Many copycat sites share the same operator and hosting provider — the inventory often reveals one or two networks behind many domains.

Step 2 — Written removal demand to each site

Send every site a written demand (email and any contact form or DMCA agent address). Structure: (1) identify yourself, (2) list the exact URLs, (3) state that you are not and have never been required to register — or that any prior listing was erroneous and you have now been removed by order of the Michigan Supreme Court, attaching the MSP statement and the court ruling, (4) demand removal of all pages and cached copies within 10 days, (5) state that continued publication is defamation per se now that no official listing exists.

NEVER pay a copycat site's "removal fee" or "arbitration fee." Paying marks you as a paying target, and industry reporting is that content frequently reappears with a new invoice. Legitimate removal happens through the site's own policy process or legal channels — never through its checkout page.

Step 3 — De-index from search engines (run in parallel)

Even after a site complies, Google/Bing caches and other engines linger. Google: file a legal removal request through the Google Legal Help Center — defamation claims, specifically "accusations that are proven false in a court of law," are a category Google weighs heavily in favor of removal; attach the court ruling. Use Google's free Outdated Content tool for pages already deleted at the source but still showing. File the equivalent legal request with Bing (Bing Webmaster Tools) — DuckDuckGo runs on Bing's index, so that covers both.

Step 4 — Escalate holdouts to their infrastructure

For sites that ignore the demand: look up the domain's WHOIS to find the hosting provider, registrar, and CDN (Cloudflare is common). Report the specific unlawful content — defamation plus the court order — to each under their acceptable-use policies. Cloudflare has a dedicated abuse form for unlawful content. Registrars have abuse contacts too. Operators run many domains on the same host; losing hosting hurts far more than losing one page. If your home address, phone, or workplace is posted, that is doxxing — an independent policy violation that accelerates action at Google and at host/CDN level.

Step 5 — Lawyer options for stubborn sites

A demand letter from a Michigan defamation attorney on real letterhead resolves most holdouts. With defamation per se plus a Supreme Court ruling behind it, your case is about as clean as internet defamation claims get, and real damages (employment, housing, community harm) are provable. If the posts came from anonymous user submissions on a forum-style site, Section 230 shields the site — but not the person who posted; an attorney can use a John Doe subpoena to unmask the poster. Everything from Steps 0-4 makes a lawyer's work cheaper and sharper: your evidence is already organized.

Step 6 — Monitor for reposts

Copypcats sometimes silently re-post from their own backups after "removing" you. Set a Google Alert on your name + city and your name + "offender," and re-search quarterly for at least a year. Catch a repost early and the Step 4 host report moves instantly.

AI answers: Google AI Overviews and chatbots can repeat whatever is indexed about you. There is active litigation on exactly this (a musician sued Google for \$1.5M in early 2026 after an AI Overview falsely labeled him a registry-listed offender). Once the pages are removed and de-indexed and the court ruling is indexed, this risk largely dies on its own — but eyeball it during monitoring.

3. Legitimate Services That Can Run This For You

Yes, these exist — and your situation (court order in hand, provably false content) is exactly the profile legitimate firms fight hardest for. Three tiers:

Tier 1 — Defamation-focused removal firms (best fit)

Reputation Resolutions — removal at source + Google de-indexing; legal partners for court orders. COST: no upfront fee — you pay only after content is confirmed removed, itemized quote first. 13+ years, 5,000+ clients, A+ BBB, NDA from first call. The success-fee model fits a strong case like yours.

NetReputation — removal plus suppression; expert-witness support for litigation. COST: free analysis; typical individual plans roughly \$550–\$2,500/mo on retainer. Volume leader; rated by Newsweek and NeilPatel 2025–2026. Retainer model means you pay while the work is in progress.

TheBestReputation — content removal across sites plus Google/Bing/Yahoo de-indexing. COST: free consultation, quote after case analysis. Handles defamation and false content through legal channels.

Realistic expectations: source removals typically take 1-2 weeks (data brokers) to 30-90 days (defiant publishers). No service can delete a third-party website — they remove YOUR content from it and get search engines to stop showing it. Anyone promising an overnight wipe is not being honest.

Tier 2 — Suppression-only firms (probably NOT your fit)

Firms like Reputation Pros (\$3,000–\$10,000+/mo) and most classic reputation-management shops do not remove — they bury. They build positive content to push the junk off page one over 6-12 months. That is an executive-priced solution for problems that cannot be removed. Yours CAN be removed — paying suppression prices would be a bad deal. Skip this tier.

Tier 3 — Michigan defamation attorney (escalation path)

Not a service, but worth naming: a Michigan internet-defamation attorney for demand letters and, if needed, John Doe subpoenas against anonymous posters. Low-cost/free starting points: the ACLU of Michigan litigated the SORA cases ("DOES III") and publishes post-ruling guidance worth checking for people coming off the registry; Michigan Legal Help (michiganlegalhelp.org) offers free self-help guides on internet defamation in Michigan.

Two Scam Patterns to Avoid

1. Never pay the registry sites themselves. "Arbitration fees" and "removal fees" charged by copycat registries ARE the business model. Paying flags you as a wallet and the content often reappears under a new invoice.
2. Never use a fake court order. There is a documented case (reported by Techdirt, analyzed by law professor Eugene Volokh) of a fabricated "Michigan federal court" injunction being submitted to Google to scrub registry listings — Google briefly acted on it, and when the case turned out not to exist, it became a public scandal. If any "service" offers to get you a fast injunction from a court that never heard your case, it is fraud with your name on it. Your ACTUAL Michigan Supreme Court ruling is real, public, and far more powerful. Never trade up to a fake.

Recommended Game Plan

Do Steps 0-1 yourself (evidence capture + site inventory) — free, and nobody knows your situation like you do. Take that finished inventory to Reputation Resolutions' free case review (and/or NetReputation's free analysis) — their success-fee model matches your risk profile, since your case is their strongest category: provably false statement of fact plus a court order. If one or two sites still stonewall after that, a single Michigan defamation attorney letter finishes the job. A lawyer-first approach also works but you would pay hourly for letter-writing the Tier 1 firms do on a success fee.

4. Removal Demand Letter Template

Adapt freely. Attach the MSP statement and the Supreme Court ruling to every copy.

Re: DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE REMOVAL — Defamatory Publication Regarding [YOUR FULL NAME]

I am writing to demand the immediate removal of all content about me published on your site(s) at the following URL(s): [LIST EXACT URLS].

Your site identifies me as a registered sex offender. This is false. I am not required to register as a sex offender in the State of Michigan or any other state. [If previously listed: I was erroneously listed following retroactive application of the 2021 SORA amendments. On September 9, 2026, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled those amendments cannot be applied retroactively, and the Michigan State Police has since removed me from the official registry, as confirmed in its official statement of September 11, 2026, attached.] Attached: (1) the Michigan Supreme Court ruling, (2) the Michigan State Police statement, (3) government-issued photo identification.

Because no official registry listing of me exists, your publication about me is not a public record — it is a false statement of fact accusing me of serious criminal conduct. Under Michigan law this constitutes defamation per se. Continued publication after notice of its falsity is knowing and willful.

I demand that within ten (10) days of this notice you: (1) permanently remove all pages, posts, images, and cached copies referencing me; (2) delete my information from your databases so it is not republished; and (3) confirm removal in writing to [EMAIL].

If you fail to comply, I will pursue all available remedies, including a defamation action in which damages are presumed, and complaints to your hosting provider, domain registrar, and content-delivery network under their acceptable-use policies. I have preserved dated screenshots and archival copies of every publication.

This letter is sent without waiver of any rights. Sincerely, [NAME], [DATE].

5. Site Inventory Tracking Sheet

Site	URL	Contact found	Demand sent	Response / status	Repost check

Tip: many copycat domains trace to the same operator or the same host (check WHOIS). Group them — one abuse report to a host can clear five domains at once.

6. Sources

Every claim above, with its source

- Sept 9, 2026 Michigan Supreme Court ruling on 2021 SORA amendments; MSP began registry removals per Sept 11, 2026 official statement — Source: Michigan State Police newsroom: michigan.gov/mspnewsroom/news-releases/2026-09-11/sor-compliance-official-statement
- ACLU of Michigan SORA litigation (DOES III) and post-ruling guidance — Source: aclumich.org/what-you-need-know-about-does-iii/
- Google accepts legal/defamation removal requests; "accusations proven false in court" weigh toward removal; de-indexing is not site deletion — Source: support.google.com/legal (web removal legal requests); Google official statements reported by PCMag, Aug 2024
- Google Outdated Content tool removes deleted pages from results — Source: support.google.com — Removing outdated information from Google
- Free Bing legal/de-indexing request; DuckDuckGo uses Bing index — Source: bing.com/webmasters legal removal
- Section 230 protects sites, not posters; John Doe subpoenas unmask anonymous defamers — Source: Techdirt reporting on the Motamedi fake-order matter (Volokh analysis); standard Section 230 doctrine
- Copycat "registry" sites monetize via removal/arbitration fees on user-submitted content — Source: Techdirt archive coverage of onlineconfession.com/registry-scam sites; Volokh analysis
- Fake Michigan court order submitted to Google; case did not exist — Source: techdirt.com/tag/abraham-matamedi
- Reputation Resolutions: pay-only-after-removal model, defamation-per-se removals, 13+ years, A+ BBB — Source: reputationresolutions.com/remove-defamatory-content
- NetReputation: removal + suppression, free analysis, ~\$550–\$2,500/mo typical individual plans — Source: netreputation.com/content-removal; drews-review.com reputation-management cost roundup

- Reputation Pros: suppression-only model, \$3,000–\$10,000+/mo, 60-90 days to first movement — Source: drews-review.com/reputation-pros/ (2026 review, A+ BBB, 16 Clutch reviews)

- AI Overview falsely labeled musician a sex-offender registrant; \$1.5M lawsuit vs Google filed 2026 — Source: The Province / CBC: Ashley MacIsaac v. Google (Ontario Superior Court, filed early 2026)

- Michigan defamation per se categories (false accusation of crime) — Source: Michigan jury instructions M Civ JI 115.11; general Michigan defamation law (general information, not legal advice)

Compiled September 13, 2026. Not legal advice. Web sources checked as of this date; the court ruling PDF and MSP statement are the durable citations to attach to every letter.