

Ohio Public School District Legal Obligation

In Regards to Sexual Offenders

The School District must simply notify the local law enforcement agency if it believes the sex offender's presence is without a legitimate purpose or creates a safety concern. In addition, the district can inform parents, guardians, and adult students of the fact that it was notified about a registered sex offender and they can take the necessary steps to seek additional information.

Upon receipt of notification from the county sheriff, the Superintendent has the option of distributing the information received to teachers and other employees involved in the supervision of students. The employees who receive this information must be instructed to promptly notify you whenever the sex offender is observed in the vicinity of the school. After the administration receives such notification from a school employee, they are only required to notify local law enforcement authorities if the presence of the sex offender appears to be without a legitimate purpose or is otherwise creating a safety concern. The requirement to notify is left to the school district's best professional judgment. The law enforcement agency is then required to inform the district as to what responsive action, if any, was taken.

The school district also has the discretion regarding whether to notify parents and adult students regarding the information received in the sex offender notification. However, section 109:5-2-04(G) of the Ohio Administrative Code limits the information that the district can share to simply stating that you received notice that a person in the area is subject to community notification, and information concerning the registrant is a public record that is open to inspection at the office of the sheriff with whom the registrant has registered, and on the state and local internet databases established by the attorney general and the sheriff. Thus, the information that the district can share is minimal, but the district may disseminate any other public record in its possession concerning the registrant.