



Fact Sheet

Sex Offender Investigations 2026

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals Service sex offender investigations mission is to protect the public from sex offenders through the coordinated enforcement of sex offender registration laws.
- ▶ With the passage of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, the U.S. Marshals Service was designated as the lead federal agency to investigate violations of federal sex offender registration laws and to assist state, local, tribal and territorial jurisdictions in locating and apprehending sex offenders who fail to comply with their sex offender registration requirements. The Marshals collaborate with those partner agencies to aggressively investigate and pursue noncompliant offenders, placing the highest priority on those who have committed violent acts and crimes against children.

<i>Fiscal Year 2025 Data</i>	
Compliance checks of registered sex offenders	34,744
Sex offenders* arrested	10,371
Adam Walsh Act** violation arrests	343
Sex offender operations	182

*Sex offenses include sexual assault, failure to register/noncompliance with the national sex offender registry and other offenses.

**The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act provides for federal criminal penalties when registered sex offenders attempt to avoid their registration requirements.

- ▶ The U.S. Marshals' Behavioral Analysis Unit, composed of psychologists and operational researchers, conducts studies and analyses on relevant topics and provides case-specific behavioral assessments. These assessments offer critical insight into the minds of offenders to assist investigators in locating, apprehending, and prosecuting noncompliant sex offenders.
- ▶ The Marshals Service runs the National Sex Offender Targeting Center (NSOTC), which supports all levels of law enforcement in identifying, locating, and apprehending noncompliant sex offenders, in collaboration with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Department of Justice's Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking Office. The NSOTC also maintains full-time liaison partnerships with investigators from the Department of Defense and the Department of State.
- ▶ In 2016, Congress passed International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders. This law authorizes the U.S. Marshals to:
 - (1) transmit notification of international travel of a sex offender to the destination country, and (2) share information related to traveling sex offenders with other federal, state, local and foreign agencies.
 - Under International Megan's Law, the Marshals work collaboratively with the Department of Homeland Security's Angel Watch Center to ensure those traveling sex offenders identified by the center are compliant with their sex offender registration requirements and have reported their intent to travel as mandated by law. This collaboration has led to the vetting of over 29,263 requests.
 - Since enactment of the law, the Marshals have processed more than 25,008 international travel notifications and generated more than 1,545 leads for investigation into possible violations of federal, state and/or local sex offender registration laws.