

B 006 01

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Governor's Task Force on Sex Offender Registration

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order creating the Governor's Task Force on Sex Offender Registration ("the Task Force").

1. Background and Purpose

Under state law, sex offenders convicted in Colorado who have completed their criminal sentences must register with the local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction in which they reside within 24 hours of their release. The failure to so register constitutes a felony, as does providing false information to the Colorado Department of Corrections ("the DOC") when registering.

Yet many sex offenders still fail to register with local law enforcement authorities as required by law. Of 71 convicted sex offenders released last week by the DOC as required by a recent Colorado Supreme Court decision, a significant number appear to have failed to register with local law enforcement agencies. This same Court ruling threatens to intensify the problem in the months and years ahead. It may force the DOC to release hundreds of additional sex offenders directly from prison into Colorado communities over the next two decades.

Faced with this reality, it is imperative that State and local government pull together immediately to apprehend sex offenders who have failed to register with local authorities, or who have provided false information to the DOC while registering. I am therefore creating the Task Force to facilitate this intergovernmental coordination, and to take additional steps as described below to protect the public safety.

2. Mission and Scope

The Task Force shall bring together representatives of Colorado state government, local law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders to –

- A. Determine the whereabouts of convicted sex offenders who have failed to register with local authorities within 24 hours of release as required by law, and to apprehend those offenders.

- B. Verify the current residential addresses as well as other legally required information provided by sex offenders to the DOC.
- C. Determine the feasibility of developing a statewide database system to consolidate the various local sex offender registries that are currently kept by 340 police and sheriff's agencies throughout Colorado.
- D. Research and develop recommendations for potential legislation to help strengthen Colorado's sex offense registry system.

3. Membership

- A. Members of the Task Force may include representatives from the Colorado Departments of Corrections and Public Safety; the Governor's Office; the Colorado State Judiciary; two members of the Colorado General Assembly, one from each political party; the Colorado Attorney General's Office; police and sheriffs offices or organizations; the Colorado District Attorneys Council; victims organizations; and such other members as selected by the Governor. Total membership on the Task Force shall not exceed 15 members.
- B. The Governor shall appoint one member to be the Chair of the Task Force. The Chair shall convene and preside over all Task Force meetings, using such procedures as the Chair deems necessary for the orderly conduct of business, or as may be required by law. The Chair shall be the sole spokesperson for the Task Force. In his or her absence, the Chair shall designate a Task Force member to serve as Acting Chair at the meeting.
- C. All Task Force members shall serve at the Governor's pleasure and shall not receive compensation.

4. Duration

The Task Force shall provide its findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than December 1, 2001, at which time the Task Force shall automatically sunset unless otherwise extended in writing by the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of Colorado
this 2nd day of August, 2001.

Bill Owens
Governor

