

Sex Offender Registry / Megan's Law

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Buyer's Right to Information

In the state of Massachusetts, prospective home buyers have the ability to determine if there are any Level-2 (moderate-risk) and Level-3 (high-risk) sex offenders living in the area in which they are searching for a home.



Every buyer should, at their own discretion, check the status of registered sex offenders with the local police department, if interested in a particular property. Some buyers may wish to research this issue before choosing to buy a house, and it is the responsibility of the buyers to exercise whatever due diligence they deem necessary with respect to accessing information about sexual offenders living or working in the area or neighborhood they are seeking to reside.

Where to Check for Sex Offenders

The Massachusetts Sex-Offender Registry Board web site, <http://www.state.ma.us/sorb/community.htm>, provides the total number of Level-2 and Level-3 offenders living or working in a specified city or town in Massachusetts. The web site does not provide offender-specific information.

Information about offenders in a specific community or neighborhood is available at the police department in that community. Upon presenting proper identification and filling out a request form, you are entitled to receive specific information on Level-2 (moderate-risk) and Level-3 (high-risk) offenders.

A person who requests sex offender registry information shall:

- (1) be 18 years of age or older;
- (2) appear in person at a city or town police station and present proper identification;
- (3) require sex offender registry information for his own protection or for the protection of a child under the age of 18 or another person for whom such inquirer has responsibility, care or custody, and so state; and
- (4) complete and sign a record of inquiry, designed by the board, which shall include the following information: the name and address of the person making the inquiry, the person or geographic area or street which is the subject of the inquiry, the reason for the inquiry and the date and time of the inquiry.

Buyer's Responsibility

It is important that all prospective buyers understand that they can and should check the registry if it is a concern when buying a home. Buyers must rely on their own inquiry with the local police department and not on the seller or any real estate agent involved in the transaction, since this information can change at any time and the scope of the search for offenders should be based solely on the buyer's determination of acceptable distances from home, school and/or work.

This Fact Sheet is for informational use only. We suggest you contact the local police department for specific information.

