

WISCONSIN SAFE INITIATIVE

Sex Offender Apprehension and Felony Enforcement

What is the SAFE Initiative?

SAFE is Governor Jim Doyle's initiative to strictly enforce Wisconsin law to protect kids and keep our communities safe from sex offenders.

Through SAFE, state and local justice agencies are pooling resources and coordinating activities to:

- ◆ Hold sex offenders accountable for their actions.
- ◆ Prevent sex offenders from becoming anonymous in our communities.
- ◆ Apprehend and prosecute offenders who fail to report their whereabouts to authorities.



"The citizens of Wisconsin have the right to know if there are sex offenders in their communities. The SAFE Team will find the offenders who are trying to hide."

Governor Jim Doyle

Who's involved in SAFE?

The Governor has appointed a SAFE Task Force to direct statewide efforts to investigate, locate, apprehend, and prosecute non-reporting sex offenders. Agencies involved include:

- ◆ WI Department of Corrections
- ◆ WI Office of Justice Assistance
- ◆ WI Department of Justice
- ◆ Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies
- ◆ County District Attorneys



The SAFE Team (Seated, l to r): Rich Cowan, Jody Becker, Steve Reinstra (Standing): George Hegerty, Grace Roberts, Mike Myszewski, Bill Cator

How does SAFE work?

Convicted sex offenders are required under Wisconsin law to provide authorities with current address and employment information. Some offenders break this law by failing to report to the state's sex offender registry. Others report to the registry, but provide false information.

When that happens, SAFE kicks into action. Here's how it works:

- ◆ Sex Offender Registry Specialists at the Department of Corrections (DOC) identify an offender who files false information or fails to report.
- ◆ DOC obtains a felony warrant for the offender's arrest.
- ◆ Case records are forwarded to the SAFE Center at the Office of Justice Assistance.
- ◆ A team of highly motivated retired law enforcement professionals and registry specialists (the SAFE Team) use innovative investigatory tactics and state-of-the-art technology to find the offender.
- ◆ The SAFE Team alerts local law enforcement about offender location.
- ◆ Local sheriffs and municipal police track down and apprehend the offender.
- ◆ District attorneys criminally prosecute the offender to the fullest extent allowed by law.

To report an offender, call toll free: **877-234-0085**
or email **docsafetips@doc.state.wi.us**

For more information about SAFE contact:

Grace Roberts: Sex Offender Registry
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Rich Cowan: SAFE Team Leader
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Visit our website at **www.oja.wi.gov**