

# “Sex offenders are not second-class citizens”

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By [Jacob Sullum](#) . . . “Sex offenders are not second-class citizens,” writes U.S. District Judge W. Keith Watkins in a [recent decision](#) overturning two provisions of the Alabama Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification Act (ASORCNA) on First Amendment grounds. “The Constitution protects their liberty and dignity just as it protects everyone else’s.”

Those points, which should be obvious, are a sadly necessary corrective to the [hysteria](#) that has driven legislators in one state after another to enact indiscriminate, mindlessly restrictive, and covertly punitive laws aimed at sex offenders. ASORCNA, which Watkins calls “the most comprehensive and debilitating sex-offender scheme in the nation,” is a prime example.

[Read the full piece here at reason.com.](#)