

Quote of the month:

Waiting to develop courage is just another form of procrastination. The most successful people take action while they're afraid!

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**Reform Sex
Offender Laws, Inc.**

The Digest - October, 2014

RSOL's Monthly Newsletter



From the Admin Team

Everyone likes to hear, "Thank you." We all want to be appreciated and told we are doing a good job. When the job is a volunteer one, such as supporting and working with and for RSOL, "thank-yous" are even more important.

This huge THANK YOU is for all new members of RSOL. We have fallen behind sending welcome packets and are working to catch up, but in the meantime--THANK YOU!. You are very much appreciated. You are doing a good job. You are helping us fight a system that is not designed to allow a successful reintegration into society even after legal penalties have been met. You are helping us help you.

The membership fee is small, but every penny counts and helps and is put to work. With those membership fees, and with your membership involvement and support, you are helping us:

- send Digests to those who are incarcerated;
- organize and hold a yearly conference;

- attend other conferences and seminars throughout the year;
- have a presence and a voice in legislative meetings and sessions;
- build and support a network of grass-root contacts and affiliates in all of the states
- support litigation that holds promise for significant issues in our cause
- foster connections and communication with other advocacy groups involved in our cause
- disseminate the truth about the public sex offender registry
- numerous other important tasks and activities

If you are not yet a member, please [join us today](#). You have options of membership levels as well as options of methods of payment.

Your involvement is crucial to our success. Without YOU we could do very, very little. The RSOL Admin Team is made up of just nine members, Every one of you who joins us adds another link in the chain that we are building, the chain of truth. We need a chain long enough to stretch not only across the United States but one that will circle the world. Please help us build that chain. Please **join us today**.

From the Executive Director

What a busy month for us!

We have launched a new series of workshops entitled Advancing Advocacy, which will mostly be on fourth Wednesdays (barring holiday interference in November/December). These workshops are open to any and all persons interested in learning more about becoming better advocates. In August, Brenda Jones presented on Connecting with Lawmakers, and this past month Phil Horner presented on Storytelling for Change. Our October presenter will be Gail Colletta on a re-entry program they are getting started in Florida.

Attendance is growing as word gets out about these workshops, but there's no upper limit. You can sign up to attend by going to [RSOL's calendar](#). To better serve those attending, we are setting up online options so people can simply log in to the workshop site, listen, view the presenter or presentation, and participate. Access codes can change month-to-month! By signing up, you will be sure to get the correct access information, so we encourage you to do that.

On second Wednesdays each month we now host RSOL Review, which is an opportunity to hear from your National leaders on happenings in the past month, and for state leaders to share what they are doing around the country. The Review is a great way to connect with other advocates and pick up some new ideas for ways to take action. As with Advancing Advocacy, our numbers are growing each month, so sign up today and get on board!

Speaking of taking action, we are not actively recruiting volunteers to help out at many different levels. Have a passion for reform? A gift of gab? Some time and

talent you would be willing to contribute at the state or national level? There's no time like the present to get involved! Visit RSOL's website to read up on the [volunteer opportunities](#) available, and then complete the [volunteer application form](#). Spread the word! Remember that RSOL runs entirely on volunteers. If YOU don't pitch in, the work cannot get done.



This Is What I Think

~~by Sandy

I **think** I am seeing a glimmer of hope. It may be too soon, and I may well be wrong, but right now it seems like a glimmer.

As I write this, we are three days from October. October means Halloween.

I was certain that, in previous years, by this time I would have already seen and responded to articles about what law enforcement was doing with its registrants on this day when children were at such increased risk--**NOT**.



I was right; looking back at last year, I wrote my first "This is pure B.S." blog in August in response to such an article. August! And quite a few additional articles on the subject had appeared by mid-September and gained in number daily all the way to and even through Halloween.

It didn't seem to matter, it has never seemed to matter, how many authoritative sources wrote articles and cited studies, all showing that there is zero increased risk to children from registered citizens on Halloween. Most of them reference the fact that, as far as can be found, there has never been an incident of a child being assaulted or harmed in any way on Halloween by a registrant.

Possibly there is a slow learning curve going on. Possible after so many years of these types of articles being written, being published, of more and more people

saying the same thing over and over, it is sinking in. Time will tell.

As of right now, September 27, I haven't seen any Halloween scare stories about registrants. A search found only one actual hit, an informative piece/advertisement by a law firm detailing what some of the restrictions are against registrants on Halloween and informing the reader which states allow or support these types of restrictions.

So...I am seeing a glimmer of hope. Tomorrow morning may bring a plethora of articles about what different municipalities are doing to keep children safe from registered sex offenders on Halloween, and I may find myself dashing off letters to editors and responses to statements by law enforcement and appeals to the public to look at the research, and my hopes will be dashed.

But for today, to quote Alexander Pope, hope springs eternal.



The Legal Corner

This is a reader contribution section that solicits legal questions from our readers. Each month a question will be chosen and answered in the newsletter by a member of our Legal Project. This section is intended for information only. It is by no means to be considered legal advice, and it should never substitute for seeking the services of an attorney.

Please send your legal questions to newsletter1940-digest@yahoo.com or mail them to The Legal Corner, RSOL, PO Box 36123, Albuquerque, NM 87176. Be sure that your question focuses on only one issue. This month's question is answered by Robin, a member of our Legal Project.

Question: I'm a registrant. Two local deputies recently came to my home for an "inspection". I allowed them to come inside, but I was very uncomfortable about it. Could I have refused to let them in?

Answer: It depends. You state that you are a registrant, but you've given no indication as to whether or not you're under some type of court-sanctioned supervision (probation or parole, for example). IF a registrant is ALSO under

supervision, that means that he has not completed his term of punishment, but has merely been release from any active period of incarceration that may have been ordered by the sentencing court. Until such time as a sentence is completed (which includes any stipulated time on probation or parole), any individual subject to an active sentence is considered to have waived certain constitutional rights and would not, for instance, be entitled to the full protections against search and seizure guaranteed to most other Americans.

You mention that two local deputies came to your home. This is a clue that you may not be on probation or parole since, typically, local sheriff departments do not deal directly with either probationers or parolees (this may not be the rule in all jurisdictions). IF you are absolutely certain that you are “off paper” (meaning that you are no longer subject to any remaining conditions of a sentencing order), then the answer to your questions is YES. You most assuredly could have refused to let the deputies into your home.

Except for exigent circumstances (which is a crisis so immediate in causation that any officer of the law would be entitled to intervene; knowing that evidence is being destroyed, or hearing a spouse being beaten, for example), NO American citizen is obliged to allow an officer of the law into his or her home without a warrant issued from a court of appropriate jurisdiction. And even where an officer is empowered with a warrant to enter the premises of one’s home, such officer is still not permitted to rummage through the home looking for anything he can find, but the search itself must comport to the stipulations of the warrant.

It is important to note, however, that it is well within a law enforcement officer’s discretion to ASK for permission to enter a home, even without a warrant. If an appropriate occupant of the home (someone who actually has the capacity to grant permission, that is) gives his or her consent for the officer to enter the home, there is nothing illegal about it. Upon an entry by consent, an officer may even conduct a limited search (line-of-sight) of the premises to locate any persons or things for which there is a legitimate investigative interest. Once inside, an officer may arrest anyone he sees either committing a crime, or for whom there is an outstanding *capias* for arrest.



This and That

[A blow for the Constitution](#) and our cause was struck in New Jersey when ex post facto application of GPS monitoring for registrants was ousted by the state's highest court. The vote was close, but it was close on the right side.

Only in Texas....A sheriff's deputy became so enamored of his job of booking in and updating registrants that he started his own collection of nude photos of the registrants. He apparently had been convincing his clients, over a period of several years, that Texas now required they be photographed in the nude. It was when he was making the pitch to one registrant that the "rules" now required a close-up photo of his erection that the registrant reported the incident to the district attorney and the entire plot unraveled. Several news stories resulted from this but none with such a clear-cut conclusion--or as interesting a headline--as [the piece](#) from Austin blogger and political analyst Scott Henson.

Some of you will remember the RSOL Minutemen from several years ago; some of you were Minutemen yourselves, and a wonderful crew we were! The formal organizational structure was phased out some time back, but some of us still function with commentary on articles and letters to editors. I was very please [to see this](#) appear in print several weeks ago. Written by one of our Minutemen, it gets an A+ in grass-roots advocacy. Thank you, Sherry.

(Time Out for Humor)

Knock-knock.
Who's there?
The police.
What do you want?
Just to talk.
How many of you are there?
Two.
Then talk to each other.





From Our States and Committees



From the editor: From time to time we receive a letter or an email asking why there has been no report--or why there is never a report--from a given state. There are two reasons. First, we do not have a contact, affiliate, or organization in every state.

If your state is not listed

on our website, we have no one there to represent your interests or the interests of RSOL.

This may also be because there has been no action in a state or because the contact there was simply too busy to send a report. If you are aware of happenings in your state and would like to help out,

send an email to contact@reformsexoffenderlaws.org or use the contact form on our website. If you are in a state with no contact and would like information about taking on that role, please indicate that in your email or contact form.



The **Affiliate Development Committee** is happy to welcome a new contact and a new organization in Missouri. Lance Martinez is organizing Missouri Sex Offender Advocates--MOSA. Welcome, Lance; we are pleased to have you with us. See Lance's first state report under Missouri.

Colorado's advocacy groups and independent advocates are working hard on several committees of the Sex Offender Management Board here in Colorado. The committee for Continuity of Treatment is making great strides. Up until now, persons with a sexual offense conviction had to start treatment over each time they changed from probation to CDOC and from CDOC to parole. This meant that areas of treatment study were repeated over and over again.

With the External Evaluator Reports that have been completed at the request of the JBC (Joint Budget Committee) over the past two years, there is movement toward RNR (Risk, Need and Responsivity), as well as research based and evidence based practice in treatment and supervision. This committee is working to insure that what has been completed and internalized at CDOC, for instance, will not have to be repeated once someone is paroled. This is a massive step forward for those with a sex offense conviction in Colorado!



Missouri Sex Offender Advocates (MOSA) recognizes you and appreciates your reaching out to us. We do not convey, offer, furnish, volunteer, render or impart legal advice.



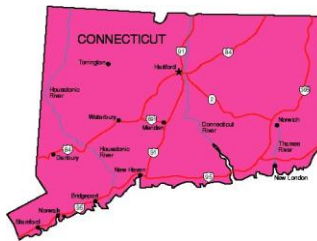
We will attempt to answer your inquiries, direct you to informative web sites and endeavor to demonstrate our commitment to defy ignorance, prejudice, and unfair and unlawful legislation. We will strive to help all sex offenders find their way in search of life, liberty, and justice for all in the pursuit of happiness and joy.

It is our hope that you will involve yourself in our state of Missouri's organization and in National RSOL to fight against the unfair and unjust laws and practices that profoundly devastate our lives and the lives of our families. Sex offender laws, for the most part, negatively influences our lives, our families' lives, our employment, our right to travel, where we make our homes, our freedom of speech, our basic US Constitutional Rights, International Human Rights, and so much more!

Texas has been busy working on all kinds of projects and events. Texas Voices has joined forces with TIFA (Texas Inmate Families Association) and Texas CURE to sponsor a "Rally for our Families" at the capitol in Austin on Friday, November 7th. We have ordered event T-Shirts and are also working on signage.



We'll be holding Texas Voices meetings for our members in Houston, Dallas, and Austin to prepare our members for the up-coming legislative session.



Our support groups are growing strong and growing in numbers. We now have Texas Voices support groups in Austin, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston, and the Midland/Odessa area. San Antonio support group will be forming soon.

In **Connecticut** we are still dealing with elections. There is some stirring of the news media hysteria over residency restrictions which seem to be starting back up as a topic of interest. We are keeping a close eye on this. Please follow our blog at connecticut-voices.org. Anyone having trouble registering, please let us know at admin@connecticut-voices.org; we need all the followers possible to make us stronger.



Here in **New Mexico**, Liberty and Justice Coalition (formally RSOLNM) is working on

switching everything over to the new name. New web sites are under ongoing construction as I write; these are Libjusco.net and Libjusco.com. Our new e-mail is Libjusco.com@gmail.com,



Florida Action Committee (FAC) continues to work with state legislators to educate on the actual data on sex offender issues. Palm Beach County has changed the residency restrictions from 2500 to 1000 feet which is the state's legal requirement. President Gail Colletta, a member of the Palm Beach County Sex Offender Task Force, has been working diligently to influence change on this issue. Gail also presented to a Masters Degree level class taught by Researcher Jill Levenson at Barry University on sex offender issues and the work of FAC.

Case consideration data continues to be collected to determine the greatest needs for registrants in the state. A data collection task force is working to gather the amounts of tax dollars required from each of the 67 counties to enforce sex offender registration laws.

While in Colorado, Gail participated in a meeting of Advocates of Change, the Colorado RSOL affiliate.

In **Michigan** we continue to follow the lawsuit against the State of Michigan by the ACLU. The results of that most likely will be a long time coming.



We still meet 4 times a year, and our meetings consist of about 30-40 attendants. We help inmates from all over the country that are going to be released and coming back to Michigan and need help or info on what the rules are or anything they may need to know to prepare. Our next meeting is Sat. Oct. 11th from 12-4 in Royal Oak, MI. We continue to work together, to meet and fight for change. We continue to support each other and grow stronger every day.

Our website is up and running: [Michigan Citizens for Justice](#); also, please note our new mailing address: 12393 St. Michel Ave. Romeo, MI 48065.

RSOL does not in any way condone sexual activity between adults and children, nor does it condone any sexual activity that would break laws in any state. We do not advocate lowering the age of consent, and we have no affiliation with any group that does condone such activities.

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