

Post Office Box 36123
Albuquerque, NM 87176
<https://narsol.org>



Post Office Box 25423
Raleigh, NC 27611
888.997.7765

CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION DEMANDS STORM SHELTERS OPENED TO ALL

No human being should be left to die for lack of adequate shelter

Raleigh, North Carolina | September 12, 2018—The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws ([NARSOL](https://narsol.org)) is demanding that officials permit anyone in a hurricane evacuation zone (including registered sex offenders) to be sheltered.

In an email to NARSOL, a registered person in Brunswick County, North Carolina wrote: “I’ve just received a phone call from the Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office informing me that should I decide to go to a shelter it cannot be at a school, public or private, or at any church that has a school or day care center.” A call placed to the Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office verified the registrant’s account.

Another registrant in Wake County, North Carolina was told that he could drive his elderly mother to a shelter and then wait out the storm in the jail lobby.

When NARSOL staff asked emergency management services in North Carolina whether people on the sex offender registry will be allowed into any established emergency evacuation shelters, every initial answer was the same: “Oh, that’s a good question.” No precise answers were forthcoming, and none of the responsible individuals apparently knew the answer. Several return phone calls were promised; one was received but had no additional information.

NARSOL’s request for a list of shelters where registered persons could go yielded the information that there were some but they didn’t know any names or locations. A call placed to the Wake County emergency services divisions was no more successful. NARSOL is still waiting for the promised return phone call from a supervisor.

Brenda Jones, NARSOL’s Executive Director, stated, “Officials in the areas impacted by this storm should use their prosecutorial discretion and refuse to enforce any laws preventing citizens from attaining safety and shelter or placing them in harm’s way.”

Jones continued, “It’s just mind boggling that the Wake County Sheriff’s Department prefers to separate an elderly mother from her son during a traumatic storm. That’s simply unreasonable.”

Robin Vander Wall, NARSOL’s vice-chair and president of its North Carolina affiliate stated, “Can there be any doubt that the sex offender registry is a tool for dehumanizing citizens of our state? Denying anyone access to emergency shelter at a critical time such as this is not only unacceptable, it’s immoral. I call on Governor Cooper to order North Carolina’s emergency shelters opened to ALL citizens of our state who have the need for

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RATIONAL SEXUAL OFFENSE LAWS

Fighting to restore dignity & constitutional rights to millions.

NARSOL is a 501(c)(4) for IRS purposes. Contributions made to NARSOL are NOT tax deductible.

Vivante Espero is a 501(c)(3) for IRS purposes. Contributions made to Vivante ARE tax deductible.

them.”

Should a registered citizen die as a result of having been denied access to safe shelter, NARSOL will hold any and all such officials involved accountable for the loss of life.

#

NARSOL advocates for laws based on facts and evidence and for policies that support the successful rehabilitation, restoration, and reintegration of law abiding, former sex offenders into society as the path to a safer society.