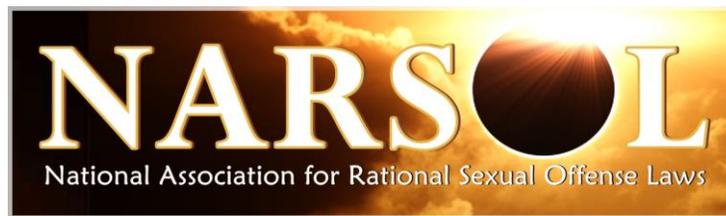


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NARSOL WARNS BEN HILL COUNTY OFFICIALS LITIGATION IS LIKELY
*Group advises sheriff to abort plan to post “Sex offender
Halloween warning” signs on citizens’ property*

Raleigh, North Carolina | October 25, 2019—The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense laws (NARSOL) hand delivered a letter to Ben Hill County, Georgia, officials asking them to abandon [their stated intention of placing Trick-or-Treat warning signs](#) on the properties of all persons living in the county who are registered on the Georgia Sexual Offense Registry.

“We’ve asked them not to erect the signs, and we’ve explained all the reasoning behind our request. And we’re pleading for them to communicate with us in the hope that this situation can be resolved with no further action being needed,” stated Brenda Jones, executive director of the civil rights organization. “Now we wait.”

Contrary to Sheriff Lee Cone’s statement that Georgia law forbids registered sex offenders from participating in Halloween, a search of the Georgia penal code and statutes reveals no such law.

“This situation closely mirrors what happened almost exactly a year ago,” Jones said.

Prior to Halloween, 2018, both Butts and Spalding Counties in Georgia publicized the activities of their sheriffs’ departments in placing signs on the homes and in the yards of persons in their counties who appeared on Georgia’s sexual offense registry.

Upon learning of this, NARSOL wrote and hand-delivered formal letters of protest and appeals for them to refrain from their actions. When no response was received and the placement of the signage became a completed fact, NARSOL took its first steps in addressing these actions targeting registrants who have totally completed their sentences, alleging illegal trespass and compelled speech on the part of the sheriffs’ departments.

NARSOL joined in civil suits against sheriffs of both counties and filed requests for injunctions against the placement of the signs for 2019. Spalding County conceded it would not require the signs this year, but Sheriff Gary Long of Butts County announced his intent to continue. A hearing was held October 24 in the U.S. District Court in Macon, where the court heard testimony relevant to the injunction request. As of the time of this release, the ruling is still pending.

“We would prefer not to spend the next year preparing for another lawsuit and all that entails,” Jones continued, “but that is up to Sheriff Cone and Ben Hill County. NARSOL is prepared to take whatever action is needed. And we can certainly expect the situations in Georgia to be a major topic of discussion on our [upcoming Halloween Marathon](#),” Jones said.

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NARSOL opposes dehumanizing registries and works to eliminate discrimination, banishment, and vigilantism against persons accused or convicted of sexual offenses through the use of impact litigation, public education, legislative advocacy, and media outreach in order to reintegrate and reconcile affected individuals and restore their constitutional rights.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RATIONAL SEXUAL OFFENSE LAWS

Fighting to restore dignity & constitutional rights to millions.

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