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NARSOL Calls for End to In-person Sex Offender Registration

Nation's largest sex offender organization cites concerns over virus

Raleigh, North Carolina | March 19, 2020—The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (NARSOL) demands that all required sex offender in-person check-ins be suspended. The civil rights organization calls on responsible state officials and local law enforcement agencies to suspend in-person check-in requirements for people who are on a sexual offense registry anywhere in the nation. NARSOL believes it's unreasonable to put people in harm's way unnecessarily, including government and law enforcement employees as well as registrants and their family members and loved ones.

Many registered individuals are senior citizens or others who suffer from a variety of health issues, any one of which puts them at increased risk of dying from the COVID-19 virus should they contract it. In addition, tens of thousands of registered men, women, and children run the risk of spreading this to their families and other innocent individuals.

“This is no time for piece-meal policies. This is no time to allow anyone to take health risks that are not essential. In any given location, well over 90% of registrants, and in many virtually 100%, are in compliance at any given time, have been that way for years, and will remain that way. Verifying this information year after year is busy work at best. And for those who are not in compliance, [studies have determined](#) that they are at no greater risk of reoffense than those who are,” said Sandy Rozek, NARSOL's communications director.

“There are other options,” stated Brenda Jones, NARSOL's executive director. “Verification can be done by telephone; it can be done by postal card; it can be done electronically, and for those who are banned from electronic usage, this would be an equally good time to suspend a ban that serves little to no public service benefit. As it now stands, every state and often individual counties are making their own rules on this issue, and many are making it up as they go,” continued Jones.

Jones concluded, “The health of those who meet with the registrants is also of vital importance; they are crucial to the safety of all citizens and must not be put at risk in this manner. If employers across the nations are safeguarding the health of their employees to the extent that they are requiring they stay home, can our nation, the employer of law enforcement and other government workers, do less?”

“We must suspend all required in-person check-in verifications for those on sexual

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RATIONAL SEXUAL OFFENSE LAWS

Fighting to restore dignity & constitutional rights to millions.

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offense registries, and we must do it now.”

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NARSOL is the nation’s largest civil rights organization advocating on behalf of registered citizens and their families. 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.