

JAMES H. DOUGLAS
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Safe Communities Briefing
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A 23-Point Action Plan

Child Abuse Prevention

Assure that families, schools, organizations and state agencies are educated and equipped to take all steps possible to protect children.

1. Include a sexual abuse prevention component in all school health curricula that includes parent/caregiver involvement.
2. Require school districts to include a check of the DCF child protection registry before hiring staff or volunteers.
3. Prevent certain professional licensure of individuals who are substantiated child abusers on DCF child abuse registry.
4. Develop an outreach program to non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations and volunteer groups to assure full use of the DCF child abuse registry when screening staff and volunteers.
5. Create Public Service announcement and other outreach to reinforce parental responsibility and raise awareness of families and communities about child sexual abuse.
6. Criminalize sexual contact between school employees and students past the age of minority.
7. Minimize the traumatization of children by amending the evidentiary requirements for Human Services Board substantiation proceedings to allow for admission of a child's recorded statements and to authorize the admission of court judgments and convictions for related behavior by the abuser.

8. Fully comply with federal law that requires DCF to release information to the public about child fatalities to include release of information about “near fatalities.”

Investigation and Prosecutions

Assure that law enforcement and prosecutors have every available tool for the successful investigation and prosecution of sexual predators.

1. Implement Centralized Intake of all reports of abuse and neglect to DCF, effective September 2, 2008.
2. Continue support for the development of special investigation units in every region of the State.
3. Adopt the federal rule of evidence that allows the introduction of evidence of a defendant’s commission of other sex offenses in a prosecution for sexual assault or child molestation.
4. Eliminate deferred sentences and expunged records for sex offenses.
5. Allow records that have been sealed by a court to be unsealed for law enforcement purposes.

Sentencing

Assure that a court has all relevant information necessary to fashion a sentence that protects the community and enhance sentences for sex offenses.

1. Remove court’s discretion to waive pre-sentence investigations for sex offenders, include child protection registry information and facts resulting in prior convictions in the investigation, and allow release of investigation to DCF when necessary for child protection.
2. Require courts to review and amend the conditions of probation imposed, as appropriate, when a split sentence (a sentence of incarceration followed by probation) is ordered and allow the court to consider additional relevant information about a defendant developed after the date of sentencing and during the period of incarceration.
3. Enact a Jessica’s Law.

Offender Supervision

Assure that convicted sex offenders are aggressively monitored and supervised if released into the community and that sexually violent predators are civilly confined.

1. Enact a civil confinement law.
2. Implement protocols for DCF to be notified whenever an offender is considered for release to a home with children in order to do a risk of harm assessment.
3. Specially assign a team of probation officers tasked with the supervision of sex offenders who will draft PSI's, monitor and supervise offenders in the community and interface with SIUs.
4. Expand the use of technology in supervision of offenders including electronic monitoring and mandatory polygraph exams and require conditions that limit or allow for supervision of sex offender internet use.
5. Mandate pre-hearing detention for sex offenders who violate risk-related conditions of probation or parole to allow for a full review of the circumstances of the violation and the development of necessary amendments to conditions of release for presentation to the court.
6. Develop criteria and centralized review of release recommendations made by DOC with respect to the most serious sex offenders to include consultation with the sex offender treatment program.
7. Implement Adam Walsh Act which includes an expanded internet registry and more frequent reporting and monitoring.

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