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# SORNA Webinar

Public Education on Registered Sex Offenders  
and Sexual Offending for Tribal SORNA Programs

Live transcript/captions available at <https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=SMART>

# Indian Country SORNA Training and Technical Assistance Program

*This project was supported by Grant No. 2017-AW-BX-K001 awarded by the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). The SMART Office is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Points of view or opinions in this presentation are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.*



## SMART

Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring,  
Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

# Technical Overview

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# Today's Presenters

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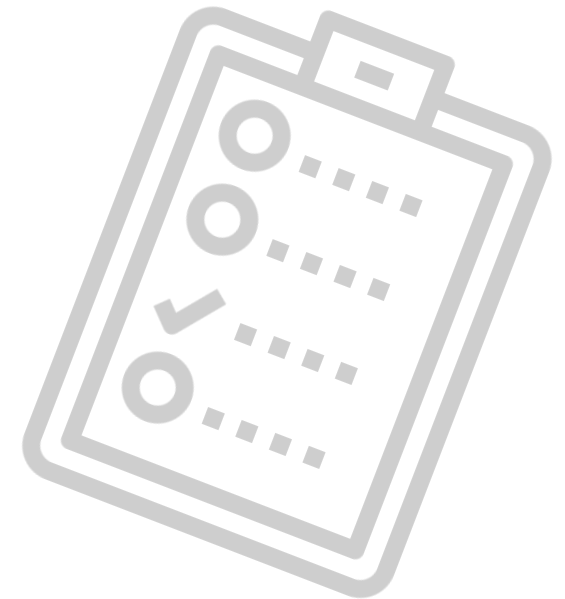
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# Agenda

- Public Education on Registered Sex Offenders and Sexual Offending
  - Definition of public education
  - Benefits of public education
  - Purpose of public education
- Developing a Community-Based Prevention Program
- SORNA Multi-Disciplinary Teams
- Panel Discussion on Best Practices
- Questions and Answers



# Public Education on Registered Sex Offenders and Sexual Offending



# Public Education

- SORNA sec. 20920 (d) requires that sites “include, to the extent practicable, links to sex offender safety and education resources.”
- NSOPW.gov: Provides visitors with information about sexual abuse, including how to protect themselves and loved ones and minimize the risk of potential victimization.
- SMART Office website ([smart.gov](http://smart.gov)) and staff are a great resource.

# National Sex Offender Public Website

The screenshot shows the top section of the website. At the top left is the Department of Justice logo and the text "THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE". To the right is the "SMART" logo with the subtitle "Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking". Below this is the name "DRU SJODIN" and the main title "NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER PUBLIC WEBSITE". A teal navigation bar contains links for "HOME", "SEARCH", "SAFETY AND EDUCATION", "ABOUT NSOPW", "FAQS", and "ABOUT DRU". On the right side of the navigation bar are links for "ESPAÑOL", Twitter, and Facebook. The main content area is divided into three sections: "SEARCH NSOPW" with a description and an "Advanced Search" button; "SEARCH BY NAME" with input fields for "First Name \*" and "Last Name \*" and a "Name Search" button; and "SEARCH BY LOCATION" with input fields for "Address \*", "City/Town \*", a state dropdown menu (currently showing "Alabama" with a red exclamation mark), and a distance dropdown menu (currently showing "1 Mile"), along with a "Location Search" button.



THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

SMART

Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

DRU SJODIN

# NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER PUBLIC WEBSITE

HOME

SEARCH

SAFETY AND EDUCATION

ABOUT NSOPW

FAQS

ABOUT DRU

ESPAÑOL



HOW TO PREVENT

HOW TO IDENTIFY

HOW TO RESPOND

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

AFTER YOUR SEARCH

## SAFETY AND EDUCATION

Sexual abuse and assault can be difficult topics to discuss. Learning about sexual abuse/assault, being able to recognize potential warning signs, knowing how to respond and being aware of resources can help.

HOW TO PREVENT



HOW TO IDENTIFY

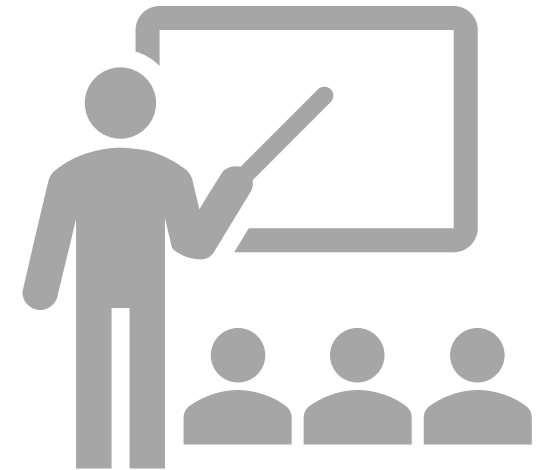


HOW TO RESPOND

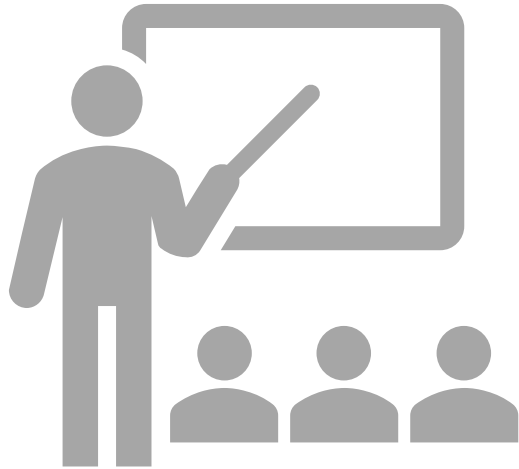


# Tribal Registrar Public Education Strategies

- Publish information on public website
- Hand out written materials
- Present information on SORNA to tribal community members
  - Conduct community notification meetings
  - Attend community events
  - Cultural events, pow wows and ceremonies



# Benefits of Public Education



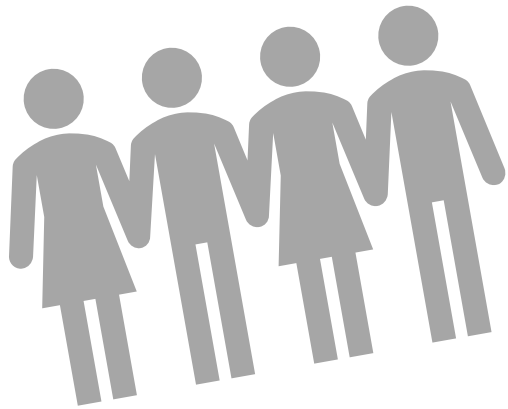
- Supports SORNA implementation and sustainability
- Gains community and tribal council support
- Brings sexual abuse out of the shadows
- Emphasizes prevention of sexual violence
- Provides accurate information and dispels myths

# Benefits of Public Education: Collaboration

- Tribal SORNA coordinator supports sexual violence prevention programs and victim services
- Helps protect the community and victims/survivors by providing resources, contacts, and education about sexual offending



# Benefits of Providing Accurate and Accessible Public Education



- The public feels empowered
- The public is less anxious
- It gets the community involved
- It protects victims through education and understanding the trauma of sexual abuse

# Risks of Incorrect Public Education

- Can aggravate the tribal community's attitude toward registered sex offenders
- Can lead to community backlash
- Can further traumatize victims

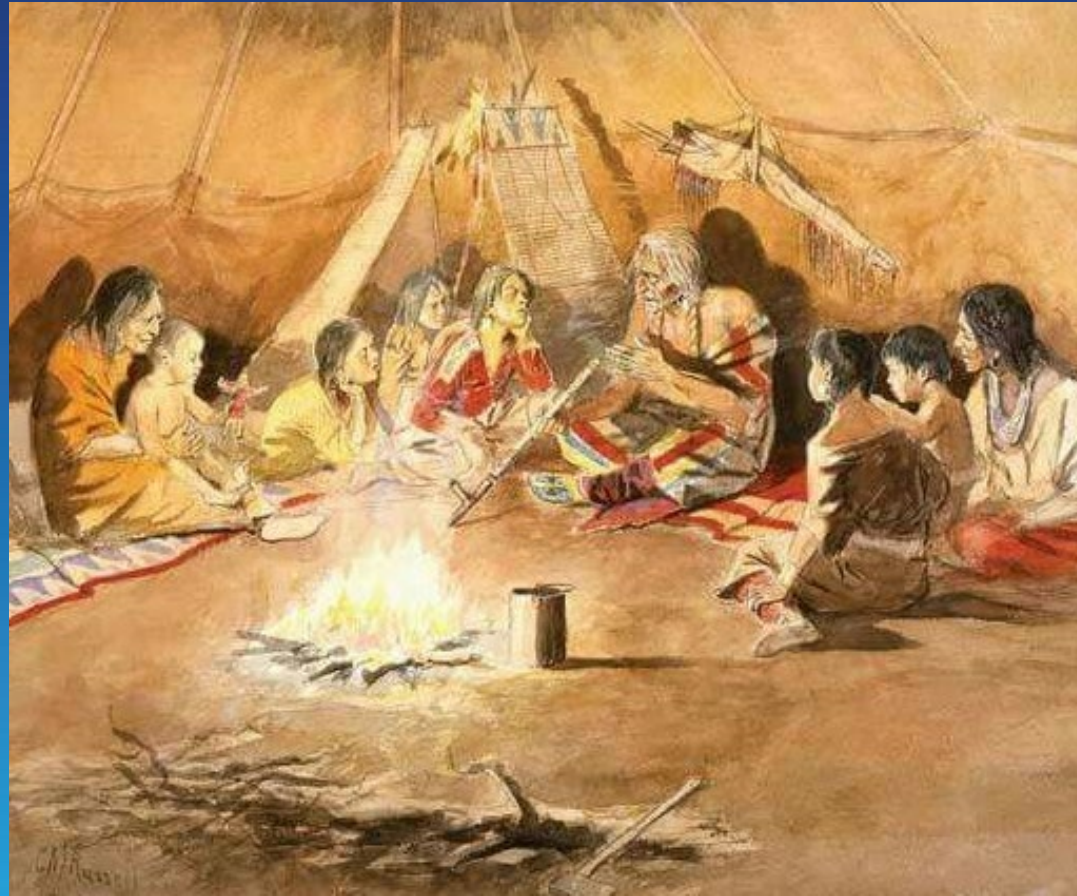




# Benefits of Public Education: SORNA Registrants

- Minimizes harassment and other reactions to offenders in the community
- Helps with offender reentry
- Helps develop increased accountability through supervision and monitoring of registrants (integrates all tribal agencies)
- Supports positive community engagement with the SORNA program and can lead to better tips from the public on registrants
- Increased public awareness about the registrant encourages registrant accountability for offenders who are no longer on probation or parole

# Purpose of Public Education



# Public Education About Sex Offender Registration

## Educate Victims and Community

- Provide information on sex offenders and offending behavior
- NSOPW (website information) and SMART Office website (SOMAPI)

## Provide Community Member Tools

- Provide public education safety and education information
- Support existing prevention and victim advocacy programs

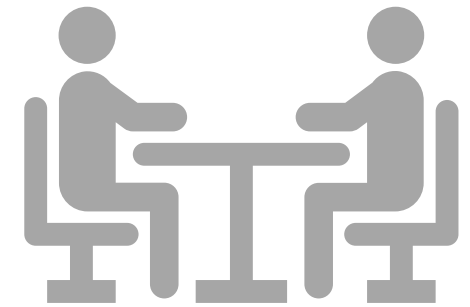
## Provide Resource Information

- To victims, offenders and family members of victims and offenders
- SORNA websites
- Handouts

# Developing a Community-Based Prevention Program

# Examples of Tribal Prevention Programs

- Grant-funded prevention initiatives
- Tribal wellness courts
- Use of cultural advisers in criminal justice
- Healthcare program mission
- Proactive education by victim service programs
- Others?



# Tribal SORNA Coordinator's Role



- Provide resources
- Share information about the SORNA program
- Collaborate with other tribal agencies and programs
- Cross-training
- Educate tribal community members, including schools, victim groups and community forums

Note: The coordinator's tasks may depend on level of experience and education.

# SORNA Multidisciplinary Teams



# Tribal Multidisciplinary Team

- Brings together key stakeholder agencies related to SORNA
- Coordinates and collaborates on SORNA functions
- Conducts community notification and public education for and by other impacted tribal agencies
- Supports registrant accountability, victim protection and community safety



# Public Education Benefits of a Tribal Multidisciplinary Team

- Provide educational information to other tribal agencies that provide public education and prevention (SORNA coordinator)
- Provide public education to community members (SORNA coordinator)
- Coordinate scarce tribal resources
- Integrate SORNA program into larger tribal community safety agenda

# Identify Multidisciplinary Team Members Impacted by SORNA

- Law enforcement
- Community
- Elected officials
- Social services
- Victim services
- Tribal prosecutor
- Behavioral health
- Tribal court
- Tribal probation
- Other agencies



# Who Is Missing?

- Which agencies are not currently at the table who need to be here?
- Who will lead the efforts?



# Webinar Panel Discussion

- How is your SORNA program participating in public education?
- Are other tribal agencies collaborating with and supportive of the SORNA program?
- How much collaboration is there by the SORNA program with other tribal agencies in their prevention programs?
- How did you bring your tribal multidisciplinary team together?
- How did you keep your tribal multidisciplinary team moving forward?



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# Upcoming Webinars

## **The Role of the United States Marshals Service for Tribes Implementing SORNA**

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 | 1 p.m. CDT

## **Enforcement of Registration Requirements**

Thursday, September 17, 2020 | 1 p.m. CDT

## **Sex Offender Registration Code, Policy and Procedures, and Form Development**

Thursday, September 24, 2020 | 1 p.m. CDT

***Registration email coming soon...***

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