

# No MORE HIDING IN SHAME

## Internet makes it possible to know sex offenders

**By Michael Johnson**  
*Free Press Editor*

BLOOMFIELD - A decade or so ago, a local child molester would pay his or her "debt to society" then quietly disappear into the shadows - often times only to reoffend.

But today, thanks to technology and forward-thinking legislation on a state and national level, it's possible for the average citizen to keep informed about convicted sex offenders living in their neighborhood, town, county and state.

In Greene County, there are 54 registered sex offenders - with charges ranging from sexual misconduct to child rape.

Locally, that registry is compiled and administered by the Greene County Sheriff's office. Denise Andrews is in charge of the local registry.

According to Andrews, local offenders who are required to be on the registry - either for a specific number of years, or for life - are kept track of on a regular basis.

**WWW.INSOR.ORG**

### INDIANA SEX OFFENDER'S REGISTRY ONLINE

She said that most sex offenders must re-register and have new photos taken every year.

Someone who is designated as a sexual predator must check in every 90 days.

Along with the registration, recent legislation also demands that sheriff's deputies physically visit each and every offender at least once a year.

The beauty of the system, she said is that concerned citizens, business owners and/or schools and daycare operators can check anyone out at any time to ensure their children or customers are safe.

To access the sex offender website, log onto *www.insor.org*. The site is sponsored and maintained by the Indiana Sheriff's Association - of which Greene County Sheriff Leon Allen is president.

If one is without internet, they

may also view the complete registry in the lobby of the sheriff's department - in hard copy form.

Andrews said that since the registry is getting more and more well known, she is spending an increasing amount of time fielding questions and comments from the public.

"A lot of the public is calling

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**\$1 Each  
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# REGISTRY

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lately,” she said. “And we teach each other.”

She noted that on numerous occasions, a citizen will look at the registry, then call the department with tips about the specific location or changed workplace for an offender.

One example she gave is an offender who lists one address, but lives at another.

“We have had offenders who list mom’s address as their resi-

dence, but live with their girlfriend,” she said.

She said the department has also had citizens come into the office wishing a criminal background check on someone - and being directed to the registry.

One example she gives is a father whose adult daughter was dating a man with whom the father’s suspicions ran high.

“He came in and wanted us to check his criminal history,” she said. “We can’t do that, but I told

him he might want to look at the registry.”

Sure enough, the man in question was a registered sex offender - a father’s intuition, with some help from local law enforcers, paid off.

*People may also access the Indiana Sex Offender’s Registry by logging onto*

*www.bloomfieldfreepress.com and clicking on the link at the top of the page.*