

Registered Offender Information

326.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines by which the Havre de Grace Police Department will address issues associated with certain offenders who are residing in the jurisdiction, and how the Department will disseminate information and respond to public inquiries for information about registered offenders.

326.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Havre de Grace Police Department to identify and monitor registered offenders living within this jurisdiction and to take reasonable steps to address the risks those persons may pose.

326.3 REGISTRATION

The Harford County Sheriff's Office assumes the responsibility for the registration of convicted sex offenders and shall establish a process to reasonably accommodate registration of offenders.

326.3.1 CONTENTS OF REGISTRATION

In accordance with Maryland Law, the Harford County Sheriff's Office will determine the proper process for sex offender registration.

326.3.2 NOTICE TO REGISTERING OFFENDER

Any offender attempting to register as a sex offender, whether in person or by other means, will be referred to the Harford County Sheriff's Office / Megan's Law Unit.

326.4 MONITORING OF REGISTERED OFFENDERS

When requested, the Havre de Grace Police will assist the Harford County Sheriff's Office with address verification of a registrant. They may also support by monitoring known offenders, observing that the offender remains in compliance with his/her registration requirements.

Any discrepancies should be documented in a written report and reported to the Harford County Sheriff's Office or registering law enforcement agency.

The patrol division will routinely disseminate information regarding registered offenders to Havre de Grace Police Department members, including timely updates regarding new or relocated registrants.

326.5 DISSEMINATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Members will not unilaterally make a public notification advising the community of a particular registrant's presence in the community. Members who identify a significant risk or other public safety issue associated with a registrant should promptly advise their supervisor. The supervisor should evaluate the request and forward the information to the Chief of Police if warranted.

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A determination will be made by the Chief of Police, with the assistance of legal counsel as necessary, whether such a public alert should be made.

Members of the public requesting information on registrants should be provided the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Sex Offender Registry or the Havre de Grace Police Department's website.

The Records Manager shall not release local registered offender information, and will refer all requests for information to the Harford County Sheriff's Office / Megan's Law Unit.

326.5.1 RELEASE NOTIFICATIONS

If the Havre de Grace Police Department where to release any offender or registrant information, the released information should include notification that:

- (a) The offender registry includes only those persons who have been required by law to register and who are in compliance with the offender registration laws. It does not include juvenile registrants whose information is confidential and only accessible to law enforcement (Md. Code CP § 11-704.1(c)).
- (b) The information is provided as a public service and may not be current or accurate.
- (c) Persons should not rely solely on the offender registry as a safeguard against offenses in their communities.
- (d) The crime for which a person is convicted may not accurately reflect the level of risk.
- (e) Anyone who uses information contained in the registry to harass registrants or commit any crime may be subject to criminal prosecution.

326.6 INTERNAL DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

The Havre de Grace Police Department may receive information such as notice of registration or change in registration information from another local law enforcement agency. Anyone receiving official notification to the Department shall send a copy of the notice to the Patrol Lieutenant, Operations Captain, Administrative Services Captain, and the Chief. (Md. Code CP § 11-709).