



Office Of The

Lincoln County Sheriff

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NEWS RELEASE

SHERIFFS OFFICE LAUNCHES OFFENDER WATCH:

I am proud to announce that the Lincoln County Sheriffs Office is launching a new Web-based program designed to enhance monitoring capacity of registered sex offenders in Lincoln County and throughout Washington State.

The new program called "Offender Watch" will assist law enforcement in tracking all registered sex offenders and kidnapping offenders to ensure registration requirements are met, community notifications are sent out and that the public has access to information regarding registered sex offenders in the County as well as statewide.

This new system will serve to enhance the current system used to track registered offenders in the county. Offender Watch provides a user-friendly sex offender Web site, enabling community members to search a countywide and statewide database of Level 2 and Level 3 registered sex offenders.

The program will also include Level 1 registered sex offenders who are currently transient or out-of-compliance. Information published at the newly launched Web site is the same information that has always been available at the state Web site operated by Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs for level 2 and Level 3 offenders. The guidelines for public disclosure of offender information are determined by RCW 4.24.550(3).

Offender Watch is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the Sheriff's Website at LCSO.CC by clicking on the "find Sex Offenders" link at the bottom of the screen.

Once at the LCSO Offender Watch site, citizens may search for offenders, register for email Alerts, find safety tips, view/download an online presentation or contact the Office via email. Citizens may enter any address of interest in the search field, which will provide a populated map and listing of offenders within two miles of that address. By registering by e-mail Alerts, citizens will receive an alert if an offender should register as residing within two miles of that address, and community members may register as many addresses as they like at no cost to them. All information garnered through this process is confidential.

I am hopeful that this new program will be beneficial to the public and allow them to access our data and ultimately keep the public safe.