

COMPLIANCE CHECKS

DEFINITION

A “compliance check” is an organized event, usually from one to three days in length, conducted by multiple agencies in a given jurisdiction who are stakeholders in the SVOR program with a goal of making personal contact with all registered offenders, preferably at their address of record.

WHO CONDUCTS THEM?

Any registering jurisdiction can conduct a compliance check using their own resources, or request help from other agencies in doing so.

WHO PARTICIPATES?

Compliance checks involve representatives from the registering agencies, Montana DCI, the US Marshals Service, Montana DOC/P&P, and US Probation.

WHAT IS DCI'S ROLE?

Montana’s two DCI/SVOR agents participate in all checks they can attend, serve as team members during the checks and assist in printing and serving Address Verification Letters (AVL’s) to known offenders during the check.

WHAT IS THE US MARSHALS' SERVICE ROLE?

The US Marshals have a mandate to assist local registering jurisdictions with compliance checks, and will provide funding, staffing, logistical planning, and overtime and equipment purchase reimbursement for agencies who choose to conduct them. They will also follow up with criminal investigations on out-of-compliance offenders who meet federal prosecutorial criteria, such as interstate cases or on Indian Country. USMS also offers resources to local agencies through the National Sex Offender Targeting Center (NSOTC) for deconfliction of information on the location of offenders.

WHAT DO RECENT CHANGES AT USMS MEAN FOR COMPLIANCE CHECKS?

Up until recently, each USMS district, including Montana, had one deputy assigned as the Sex Offender Investigations Coordinator (SOIC), whose full-time job it was to travel to meet with representatives of registering jurisdictions, plan and execute compliance operations, investigate sex offender registration violations and submit them for prosecution, and serve warrants on out-of-compliance offenders.

Recent organizational changes at USMS have eliminated the SOIC position. The duty has been absorbed into the districts, to administer how they see fit. In Montana, as it currently stands, the plan is to have deputies in Great Falls, Missoula, and Billings who will handle the SOIC’s former duties collaterally to their other duties. There will no longer be one point of contact.