

Comparison of Montana's Sexual and Violent Offender Registry Elements

By Rachel Weiss for the Law and Justice Interim Committee's SJ 19 Study

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Registry Element	Sexual Offenders	Violent Offenders
Federal involvement in standard-setting	Yes	No
Penalty for failure to register or keep registration current	Up to 5 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000	Up to 5 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000
Risk level assigned	Yes	No
Duration	Life, with option for certain offenders to petition court for relief	10 years from release from confinement or end of sentence (but must petition court to be relieved from registration)
Offender may petition court for relief from registration duty?	Yes, after 10 years for level 1 Yes, 25 years for level 2 No for level 3	Yes, 10 years from release from confinement or end of sentence
Photograph, fingerprints, DNA samples required?	Yes	Yes
Photograph updates	At minimum annually	Annually
Address verification	<p>DOJ mails a verification form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - every 90 days for a level 3 offender; - every 180 days for a level 2 offender; - every year for a level 1 offender <p>A sex offender must return the form in person.</p>	DOJ mails a verification form every year

Sources:

Montana Sexual or Violent Offender Registration Act, Title 46, chapter 23, part 5;
 Montana Department of Justice website (<https://app.doj.mt.gov/apps/svow/>) and staff

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