



Operation BOO 2018

Parents' Guide

Eyes Open for Strange Behavior

Welcome Parents and Guardians!

Thanks for your interest. We at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation offer this resource to further help you keep your kids safe from molestation.

First, let's dispel a popular myth about those who commit sexual abuse against children.

Years ago, the main message to combat child sex abuse was about "Stranger Danger." But that's changed because, even though just one such case is too many, research shows that only a small percentage (10%) of molestation cases involves strangers abducting and abusing children. The U.S. Department of Justice says most sex-abuse against kids is committed by people they know and trust.

-30% of all child molesters are the children's own family members.

-Twice that many, about 60%, aren't family members -- but they are known to the child. They're family friends, babysitters, child care providers, or neighbors.

- And it's not just adults - 23% of reported cases are committed by people younger than 18 years of age.

Parents also need to know that only sex offenders on parole in California are under supervision by CDCR. Per the Megan's law website, there are 76,155 registered sex offenders in California. As of October 6, 2017 there are 8,949 registered sex offenders on parole. That's about 12% of the total known sex offenders in the state. Our department does not have the legal authority to supervise non-parolees.

So awareness can go a long way in helping keep children safe – not just on Halloween, but throughout the year.

We've listed several website locations with tips on how to talk to your children about dangerous behaviors by any adult, not just strangers. The tips were compiled by various government agencies and advocacy groups and their experts. Please familiarize yourself with them by clicking the links below.

California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General

How to protect yourself and your family:

https://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/Education_ProtectYourself.aspx

Polly Klaas Foundation

What to teach your kids: "Dangerous Adult Behaviors"

<http://www.pollyklaas.org/safe/talk-to-strangers.html>

Sex Offenders: "What should you tell your children?"

<http://www.pollyklaas.org/safe/sexoffender3-1.html>

Stop it Now! (Survivors of Sexual Abuse)

Prevention Tip Sheets: "Talking to Children and Teens"

http://www.stopitnow.org/talking_to_kids

Once you pick the age-appropriate tips that you feel comfortable sharing with your family, please take a few minutes to go over the information with them.

CDCR's Division of Adult Parole Operations wants you and your children to have a safe and fun Halloween. On Halloween night, we'll be out in force statewide for Operation Boo 2018. It's the 25th year that we've been imposing special conditions of parole on known sex offenders supervised by our agents.

Easy, step-by-step process to help increase your family's safety when exploring your community.

A few days before Halloween:

1. The California Megan's Law Sex Offender Locator may be accessed at this link: <https://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/Disclaimer.aspx>
(For languages other than English, please use the language selector.)
2. Once on the Megan's Law website, follow the instructions to check the area in which you'll be trick-or-treating so you can aim to avoid the homes of registered sex offenders. If you'd like, map out a route for your family where you feel comfortable taking your children. (*Per the Megan's Law Website, "please note that: California [Penal Code § 290.46](#) mandates the posting categories and who can be disclosed on the Public Megan's Law website. This statute also specifies that certain registrants can apply to be excluded from public disclosure on the website."*) [Updated numbers of registrants and the numbers of sex offenders who are not required to register are available on that site and can be accessed from this link.](#)
3. Familiarize yourself with the special Operation Boo conditions of parole for sex offenders in California:
 - A 5 p.m. - 5 a.m. curfew during which sex-offender parolees must remain indoors;
 - All exterior lights of their homes must be turned off so that it looks as if no one is home, which discourages children from approaching;
 - No offering of Halloween candy and no Halloween decorations;

- During the curfew, sex-offender parolees can only open the door to respond to law enforcement, such as parole agents who are patrolling their caseload to ensure compliance.



On Halloween Night:

1. Please do not attempt to take any enforcement action yourself. If you feel someone is breaking the law, please call your local law enforcement agency by dialing 911.
2. Have a fun trick-or-treat experience knowing you've taken precautions to keep your children safe from sexual predators - not just on Halloween, but all the time. We've chosen Halloween as a good time to make parents and kids aware of sexual predators. Instances of sexual abuse have not been prevalent on Halloween night in California during the two decades since Operation Boo started. Sexual predators shy away from scrutiny and now you're a part of Operation Boo - helping shine an even brighter light on predators.

Thanks for Participating in Operation BOO!