



2021

OPERATION BOO PARENT'S GUIDE



Welcome Parents and Guardians!

Thanks for your interest in this year's parents' empowerment tool to help keep your kids safe not just on Halloween and Dia de los Muertos, but all the time.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Division of Adult Parole Operations wants you and your children to have a safe and fun time.

While instances of sexual abuse or abductions have not been prevalent on Halloween night in California during the more than almost three decades since Operation Boo began, we still want to offer some traditional safety tips if you plan to go out with your family:

EDUCATION IS KEY:

When it comes to sex offenses against kids or teens, it's important to dispel a popular myth about those who commit or allow sexual abuse against minors.

Years ago, a top message to combat child sex abuse was about "Stranger Danger." That has changed. According to a U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics report published in 2000, more than 90% of child victims know their offender, they're acquaintances, family friends or family.

[The California Attorney General's Megan's](#) law website also says most sexual abuse against kids is committed, or allowed to happen, by people the children or teens know and trust.

These are the facts:

- Of sexual assaults against people age 12 and over, approximately 80% of the victims know the offender.
- 30% of all perpetrators of child sexual abuse are the child's own family members.



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Nationally, sex offenses against children are not all committed by adults. Juveniles account for more than one third, (35.6 percent) of reported cases of sex offenses against minors.

Awareness can go a long way in helping to keep children and teens safe – not just on holidays, but all the time. We have listed several webpages with tips compiled by government agencies, advocacy groups and other experts on how to talk to your children about dangerous behaviors by any adult, not just strangers.

You're invited to familiarize yourself with them by clicking the links below. (You may need to hold down your control [Ctrl] button and then click on the links.)

California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General

How to protect yourself and your family:

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

Stop it Now! (Survivors of Sexual Abuse)

Prevention Tip Sheets: "Talking to Children and Teens"

http://www.stopitnow.org/talking_to_kids

Stop it Now! (Survivors of Sexual Abuse)

Prevention Tools: Help and Guidance

[Prevention Tools | Stop It Now](#)

Learn More from (The National Center for Victims of Crime)

[Child Sexual Abuse Statistics – The National Center for Victims of Crime](#)

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.



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BEFORE TRICK OR TREATING:

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 will be trick or treating. If you like, map out a route you feel comfortable taking your group.
3. Familiarize yourself with the special Operation Boo conditions of parole for state supervised sex offenders in California who have a restriction against contact with kids.

The Special Conditions of Parole for certain sex- offenders on Halloween night are:

- 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 are allowed;
- 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.



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ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT:

1. If you feel someone is breaking the law, please do not attempt to take any enforcement action yourself and instead call your local law enforcement agency by dialing 911.
2. There are many different types of sex offenses and not all registered sex offenders have restrictions against contact with kids or are required to abide by Halloween restrictions for those who have that restriction.
3. Have a safe and fun experience and remember this season is as good as any to discuss personal safety and ways to keep your children and teens safe from sexual assaults not just on Halloween, but all the time. We have chosen Halloween as our traditional time to make parents and kids aware of sex offenses against children and teens.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) says families who decide to take children trick or treating this year should take steps to minimize the potential for COVID-19 exposure. It's recommended that you familiarize yourself with [those tips here](#).

