

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION



OPERATION

BOO

PARENTS' 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 Rehabilitations' 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 in California during the more than three decades since Operation Boo began, we still want to offer some traditional safety tips if you plan to go out with your family.

Of sexual assaults against people age 12 and over, approximately 80% of the victims know the offender.

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.

BEFORE TRICK-OR-TREATING

The California Megan's Law Sex Offender Locator may be accessed at this link:

<https://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/Disclaimer.aspx>

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.

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.

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.

ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT

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 9-1-1.

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.

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.

30% of all perpetrators of child sexual abuse are the child's own family members.

NATIONALLY, sex offenses against children are not all committed by adults. Juveniles account for more than one-third, (35.6%) of reported case of sex offenses against minors.

Awareness can go a long way in helping keep children and teens safe - not just on holidays, but all the time.

Here are 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 are invited to familiarize yourself with them by following the links provided.

California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General

[How to protect yourself and your family](#)

Stop it Now! (Survivors of Sexual Abuse)

["Talking to Children and Teens"](#)

[Help and Guidance](#)

The National Center for Victims of Crime

[Learn more: Sexual Abuse Statistics](#)

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.

