

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER GUIDELINES

A registered sex offender (“RSO”) is defined as an adult who has been convicted of a crime or crimes of a sexual nature against a minor or an adult. Those listed on the New Hampshire State Registry are individuals who have been convicted of sex offenses against a minor where there was a significant age difference between the adult and minor, as well as those convicted of more than one sex offense against an adult.

These are general guidelines and may be revised on a case-by-case basis to be more or less restrictive. Consultation with the Office for Ministerial Conduct and the local police and/or the RSO’s parole officer is encouraged.

Registered Sex Offenders who are Parents/Guardians of Catholic School Students

A registered sex offender who is a parent with residential and/or decision-making rights or who is the legal guardian of a student must meet with the principal to review the restrictions imposed on the RSO (once-a-year meetings are recommended). The principal is strongly encouraged to include a second person (“principal’s delegate”) in any and all meetings with a registered sex offender. All restrictions imposed on the RSO must also be conveyed to the RSO in writing.

- The RSO is not eligible to be a school employee or volunteer (RSA 189:13-a).
- An RSO who has been convicted of an offense against a minor is not allowed on school premises at any time when minors are present.
- An RSO who has been convicted of an offense against a minor may not attend any school event at which minors are present, regardless of where the event is held. Exceptions may be made for special events on a case-by-case basis.
- The RSO may have the right to review his/her child’s educational record. If so, the RSO must contact the principal for an appointment.
- The RSO may have the right to communicate with his/her child’s teacher about the student and may do so by contacting the teacher only at the school by phone, mail, or email.
- The RSO may meet with the teacher (and principal or principal’s delegate) regarding the student after school hours when no minors are present.

Registered Sex Offenders Participating in Parish Life

- The RSO may not hold any volunteer or employee position in the parish (this is diocesan policy and no exceptions will be made).
- As a general rule, there will be no restrictions on liturgy attendance. However, if necessary, the pastor may enforce certain restrictions such as assigned seating or monitoring by an usher. Parishes are encouraged to communicate any restrictions in writing.
- The RSO must seek permission for involvement in any parish group. If the pastor approves such membership, the head of the ministry will be informed of the RSO’s status. The RSO may not participate in any parish ministries or groups that include minors.