



## Support survivors, not public conviction registries.

We all want a justice system that makes the public safe, holds people accountable for harm, and then allows them to move on with their lives.

### If we are serious about ending violence, we should abandon failed policies.

State conviction registries were intended to be a tool for law enforcement officials and were limited in scope. In the past three decades, we have expanded these public databases and added “housing banishment” laws, “public space banishment” laws, and numerous other restrictions and reporting requirements. Rather than improve public safety, these civil regulations:

- Divert critical resources away from crime survivors and proven prevention strategies.
- Make life impossible for people doing their best to lead positive and productive lives.
- Systematically displace people from housing and pose obstacles to parenting.
- Weaken the resilience of families and communities coping with crime and mass incarceration.

### The Chicago 400 are people who must register weekly at Chicago Police because:

They have a past conviction requiring registration and do not have a “fixed address” approved under current Illinois laws and are therefore homeless.

### As a result of housing banishment and registry laws:

- Police must remove people from homes they own or lease and push them into homelessness (their housing becomes illegal if someone nearby takes out a daycare license, etc.).
- People must organize their lives around waiting at the police station one day a week—they miss work, miss school, and can’t take care of their kids, spouses, parents.
- If they miss a week by even one day, they can get a 10-year extension of registration time or go to prison for a felony.
- People working, attending school, and supporting their families are destabilized, uprooted, and driven into despair.

#### Approximate rates of Illinoisans on registries

- **1 in every 212 men** in Illinois is listed and labeled on the sex offense registry
  - **1 of every 84 African-American men** in Illinois is listed and labeled on the sex offense registry
  - **Nearly 1 in 5 people** on the sex offense registry in Chicago is homeless
- Of the Chicago 400 (who register as homeless):
- **80% are African-American men**
  - **56% have been re-incarcerated for administrative violations**

These rates and disparities are even more extreme if we count the other registries.

### Our goal is to prevent victimization, support survivors, and allow people who have already been held accountable to move on with their lives.

- Public conviction registries confuse the public about the many pathways to sexual offending. The vast majority of people who sexually offend will never be on any registry, and it is unlikely that those who are will reoffend.
- Ignoring systemic causes has allowed a culture of sexual abuse and violence to go on with impunity.
- Legislators continue to invest in a system that begins after people have completed punishment and then puts up barriers to their success. Meanwhile, we don’t prevent victimization or take care of people who are reporting or experiencing crime.
- We do not support laws that strip people of their basic human needs, block their efforts to build positive and productive lives, and waste state resources that could be helping restore people after victimization and/or punishment.
- Join justice, housing, and victim advocates in investing in true community safety for Illinois.

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## Our values

- Justice policies should prevent victimization and support crime survivors.
- Police and law enforcement resources should be directed toward true public safety and crime prevention measures. Our communities deserve thoughtful and proven policies.
- We should not extend the damage of incarceration to our families and the next generation.
- People should not lose their jobs and homes due to onerous government requirements that occur years or decades after punishment is completed.

## This convoluted and contradictory maze of laws put people who register weekly and quarterly in impossible situations:

- A group of guys sleep at the train station overnight every Thursday so they can be first in line on Friday. They have to be first in line to make it to their jobs in time for work. (Ron, Jeff, Matt)
- Arnold sleeps overnight in his car outside the police station. After he registers, he must rush to get his warehouse job in a suburb by 10:00am. He is often late to work at a job with the unforgiving “point system” since he completes registration at 11:00am, 1:00pm, or 2:00pm.
- In the 12 years since Anthony’s probation, he was forced out of his home three times, even with little kids and while his wife was pregnant. He and his wife had to separate so that their children would not experience the negativity and instability of being displaced. Anthony remains a great father and his six kids no longer have their father at home.
- Michael wants to live with his family but the house is in a banishment zone. His wife is pregnant and works long hours with a long commute. Instead of being there to help her, he has to sleep in his car, an unsafe and frightening experience.
- Michael (above) drives to his wife’s home before 6:00am to get his son dressed and take him to school. On the days he registers, he has to choose between taking his son to school or risking a felony. His child misses elementary school because of this.
- Some parents, like Charles, became homeless because of housing banishment laws and are now homeless with their children and spouse.
- Carl was at a barber shop and was the victim of a drive-by shooting. He fell from 10 bullets and said, “Stop, I have a 2-year old.” He needed rehab to learn to breathe and walk again. Schwab Medical Center would not take him because he had a past conviction in Florida years ago. His mother struggled to find somewhere else to go, for a shorter time. Now he still needs constant care and can’t live with his wife or mother because of housing banishment laws.
- People sit in the bullpen for hours, arriving at 6:00am and staying as late as 2:00pm. There is no bathroom or electrical outlet. When they go out to smoke, they are told they will be arrested for being on the sidewalk and that they have to go two blocks away. (Carlos, Stan)
- People who miss registering one week, or any other reporting requirement, or fail to pay the \$100 yearly fee, can be given a new felony and/or another whole decade of registration time. Even when hospitalized, they are labeled non-compliant and sometimes extended ten years. (Alfred, Sandra)
- Police are required to impose a lifetime of surveillance, compliance checks, monitoring, and arrests simply because people have a past conviction. When police show up in their neighborhood or workplace asking about them, it causes problems for their families, and sometimes people lose their housing and jobs because of the police presence. (Juan, Anton)

**People should be held accountable and punished for causing harm to others. After punishment, let them move on with their lives and support their families.**