

# Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

## Eugene J. Conway

Sheriff

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## Sheriff's Detectives Conduct Compliance Checks of Registered Sex Offenders

**Onondaga County, New York-** The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office along with members of the United States Marshals Service continue to conduct surprise compliance checks at the residence of registered sex offenders in Onondaga County.

Over the course of several weeks, Sheriff's Detectives assigned to the Abused Persons Unit along with U.S. Marshals, have been conducting unannounced compliance checks on level 1, 2 and 3 registered sex offenders. While Level 1 sex offenders are considered low risk of repeat offenses, Level 2 and 3 sex offenders present a moderate to high likelihood of repeat offending and are of a risk to the community. Detectives have thus far conducted 198 home visits and found that 129 of registrants were in compliance with their registration requirements. Sixty-nine (67) of the registrants were not verified because they were not home or appeared to no longer reside at the registered residence, requiring additional investigation. Sheriff's detectives will follow-up to determine if the registrants are in compliance. Two (2) of the registrants were found to be non-compliant and were subsequently charged by Detectives for failing to notify the Sheriff's Office of their address change.

There are 1057 registered sex offenders in Onondaga County and approximately 39,000 registered sex offenders in New York State. These individuals have been required to register under the "Sex Offender Registration Act" which became effective January 21, 1996. This Act is modeled after New Jersey's "Megan's Law" which was named for seven year old Megan Kanka who had the misfortune of living across the street from a twice convicted sex offender. The sex offender raped and murdered Megan in 1994. Congress immediately thereafter enacted legislation which provided funding for States which enacted a Sex Offender Registration Law meeting certain minimum requirements. As of

2003 every State has enacted a Sex Offender Registration Law although the laws vary significantly in content.

These Offenders are photographed and fingerprinted. They must also provide a range of information, including address, place of employment, vehicle information and internet accounts. In addition, they are also required to notify authorities if any of this information changes.

The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Marshals will continue to conduct these checks to verify registered sex offenders are living at their reported residences and are in compliance with the law.

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