



OFFICE OF
Steve Boyer

KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:
KCSO news release #08-020 / 38

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Community Notification: Level III Sex Offender

Port Orchard, Wash. – The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office is releasing the following information pursuant to RCW 4.24.550, and a Washington State Supreme Court decision in State vs. Ward, regarding public notification of the anticipated residency of convicted sexual offenders.

The person who is named in this advisory has been convicted of criminal offenses that require registration with the sheriff's office in the county of residence. Further, his previous criminal history places him in a classification level that reflects the *potential* to re-offend.

Name: Steven Matthew Arnold, white male, age 21.

Residence location: Arnold has registered with Kitsap County Sheriff's Office as a transient with no fixed address. As a transient, Arnold is required to check-in with the sheriff's office once per week.

Description: 6' 03" ht., 190 lbs. wt., hair: blond, eyes: green

Criminal history: According to court documents Arnold was convicted in 2002 of rape of a child, 1st degree, for sexually assaulting two juveniles, between the ages of nine and 12, who were known to him. Arnold was 15 years-old at the time of the offenses.

Community meeting: Since Arnold is a transient, no community meeting is scheduled.



Steven Matthew Arnold
date of photograph: 12/20/2007

This notification is not intended to increase fear; rather, an informed public is a safer public.

The Sheriff's Office has no legal authority to direct where a registered sex offender may or may not reside. Unless court-ordered restrictions exist, registered offenders are constitutionally free to live wherever they choose.

Sexual offenders have always lived within our communities. It wasn't until passage of legislation entitled the "Community Protection Act of 1990," which mandates sex offender registration, that civil authorities even knew where they were living.

Abuse of information provided through the sex offender notification process, in order to intimidate, harass or threaten registered offenders, will result in an investigation and the filing of criminal charges against the perpetrators. Such abuse could potentially end law enforcement's ability to conduct community notifications. The only person who 'wins,' if community notification is halted, is the registered sex offender, as sexual offenders derive their power through secrecy.

As of April 30, 2008 there are 20,198 sex offenders who have registered as required and are living in the State of Washington. Of this number, 496 are living in locations within the unincorporated areas of Kitsap County, while 230 offenders are living within the limits of incorporated municipalities in the county and 94 are incarcerated in jail or with the state department of corrections.

The Sheriff's Community Resource Officer, Deputy Pete Ball, is available to assist communities in establishing block or neighborhood watch programs and to provide the public with information on personal safety. He may be contacted at (360) 337-7074.

For further information on registered sex offenders in Kitsap County, please contact Detective Doug Dillard at (360) 337-5617.

###