

# **Information booklet for people on licence for a sex offence**

**October 2015**

This booklet contains information for people convicted of a sex offence on release from prison. It may also be helpful to families, employers and people working with those convicted of a sex offence.

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### Useful abbreviations:

<b>CRC</b>	Community Rehabilitation Company
<b>CSOD</b>	Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme
<b>MAPPA</b>	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
<b>OM</b>	Offender Manager
<b>OS</b>	Offender Supervisor
<b>PI</b>	Probation Instruction
<b>PNC</b>	Police National Computer
<b>PSI</b>	Prison Service Instruction
<b>PSO</b>	Prison Service Order
<b>SHPO</b>	Sexual Harm Prevention Order (formerly called SOPO)
<b>SO</b>	Supervising Officer, also called Probation Officer or Offender Manager
<b>SOPO</b>	Sexual Offences Prevention Order
<b>SRO</b>	Sexual Risk Order
<b>ViSOR</b>	Violent and Sexual Offenders Register (an intelligence database about people with a conviction for a sexual or violent offence)

# Release on licence

If you are on a licence, it might seem that there are a lot of rules and restrictions. However, these can sometimes be reduced if you follow the rules successfully. There are sources of support and many people who leave prison following a conviction for a sex offence go on to LEAD productive lives.

If you have been released on licence, it means that you will serve the rest of your sentence in the community. Your licence says what you should do. You may be taken back to prison if you do not follow the rules. This may be because you commit an offence or break some other rules. This is also called a breach of licence.

## How long is my licence?

This depends on

- when you were sentenced
- the length of your sentence
- any extended licence period given at sentencing.

The date your licence ends will be shown on the copy of your licence you were given when you were released from prison.

## What are my licence conditions?

There are some **standard** conditions for released prisoners. They are

- to be of good behaviour and not commit any offence
- to keep in touch with your supervising officer. Your supervising officer works for the Probation Service and works with you to help you not to offend if required, to receive visits from your supervising officer at your home or where you are living
- to permanently live at an address approved by your supervising officer, and get permission if staying for one or more nights at a different address
- only do work that is approved by your supervising officer
- not to travel outside the UK without permission.

## **Additional Licence Conditions:-**

Your licence may also have some **additional** conditions, these can restrict the things you do or require you to do something. Some possible conditions are in the list below:-

- restrictions on activities you can do
- restrictions on using the internet
- restrictions on using mobile phones and cameras
- not be permitted to contact your victim, or anyone under 18 or not be permitted to stay in a house with anyone under 18
- not to enter or remain in sight of places where there are children, such as schools or children's play areas
- not be permitted to be in contact with any known sex offenders, except during courses or where they live at the same hostel as you
- not to enter a certain area or go to a certain place ('an exclusion zone')
- not to be in contact with another prisoner
- not to be in contact with someone who was also convicted of sex offences
- not to work or volunteer in a place that will involve a person under a certain age
- to take part in a sex offender programme
- to attend polygraph test sessions
- to tell your supervising officer if you start a new relationship or to tell your supervising officer if you start a new relationship where the person resides in a house with someone under 18
- to stay at home between certain hours (curfew)
- to report to a police station to give details of any car you use
- to attend appointments with a psychiatrist or mental health worker, (this condition can only be used with your consent and if mental health services agree to treat you).

Most of these conditions will include the words, "without the prior approval of your supervising officer", so they may be allowed if your probation officer is aware and agrees.

All licence conditions must be necessary, fair, reasonable and relate to your offending. They should not duplicate the conditions in a SHPO but this does happen.

Some victims can be told about the licence conditions that relate to them. They then have the right to put forward their feelings and views about it. For example, they may argue that an exclusion zone, an area that you are not allowed to enter, should be wider.

## Can I change my licence conditions?

Licence conditions for life sentenced prisoners can only be changed by the Parole Board.

For other people on licence, it may be possible to get your licence conditions changed but it can be difficult and take time. Your supervising officer should keep your licence conditions under review. The greater the restriction on you, the more often they should be reviewed. Licence conditions may be changed if you are making progress, for example, if you have successfully completed a sex offender programme in the community.

However licence conditions which are put in place for the protection of the victim will not be changed.

If you would like to try to change your licence conditions:-

1. The first step is to talk to your supervising officer.
2. If you cannot agree, the next stage is to make a formal complaint to the deputy director of your probation division. To find out who this is, you can ask Prison Reform Trust, visit your local library or search for it in the Probation Directory which can be found on the Ministry of Justice website.
3. If you are still unhappy with the response, you can appeal the decision by writing to the deputy director. They will organise an independent review of the complaint.
4. The final stage is to write to the Prison and Probation Ombudsman. You can write to the Ombudsman if you have already tried to solve your complaint with probation staff and you are still not happy. Their job is to look at complaints from people on probation and in prisons. You would need to send them your papers and a note telling them why you need their help. Their address is:-

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman  
PO Box 70769  
London  
SE1P 4XY

## Further information on licence conditions

More information on licence conditions can be found in **Prison Service Instruction 12/2015 'Licence conditions, licences and licence and supervision notices'** (this is the same document as **Probation Instruction 11/2014**).

More information about making probation complaints can be found on the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's website and in **Probation Instruction 51/2014 'National Offender Management Service Probation Standard Complaints Procedure'**. The Prisoners' Advice Service website also has an information sheet on probation complaints.

## Hostel rules

In addition to your licence conditions, if you are staying at a hostel you will have to follow their rules as well, which may include a curfew and signing in.

## **Polygraph testing**

You may have to do a polygraph test as a licence condition. This can happen if you are being released from a sentence of 12 months or more and are considered high risk, according to OASys and RM2000. You will have to attend a polygraph test every three to six months and more frequently if you fail a test.

You will be asked questions which will be related to following your licence conditions and risky sexual behaviours. The polygraph has sensors which measure

- breathing
- heart rate
- skin conductivity (sweating).

The polygraph is not suitable for people

- who have severe learning difficulties
- suffering an acute psychotic episode
- with severe depression.

Other medical conditions can be accommodated in the test.

You cannot be recalled to prison for failing a polygraph test on its own. However, if you are seen to be at risk of offending before or during the polygraph test your supervising officer, or the police, will investigate. If they find you have breached other licence conditions or your risk has increased, you may be recalled.

You are only able to take the test as part of your licence conditions. You cannot volunteer for the polygraph test, you have to be assessed as suitable for it.

## **Sex offender programmes**

As part of your licence conditions, you may have to go for an assessment for a sex offender group work programme, like SOTP in prison. These courses look at the causes of offending and how to avoid offending behaviour. The programme may last from a few months to a year or more.

## **Maintaining innocence**

These courses are not always suitable if you are maintaining innocence and should not be included on your licence. However, a condition to attend an assessment for the course can be on your licence.

If you maintain your innocence, and you have a course like this on your licence, then you could be in breach if you fail to attend the assessment for the course. When you have the assessment this should show that you will not be accepted onto the course. This means that failure to attend the course should not be a breach. If you are being asked to do a course when you are maintaining innocence, you can seek legal advice.

There are courses being developed for people who maintain innocence. If such a course is available and is condition on your licence, you would be in breach if you failed to attend.

## **Getting help**

You can ask your probation officer for help with problems you may have, such as finding a job, somewhere to live or managing your feelings. They may not be able to provide help themselves but they might be able to direct you to other organisations.

# Sex offender notification requirements (the sex offenders' register)

The sex offender notification requirements, sometimes known as the 'sex offenders register', were introduced in 1997. Anyone convicted of a sexual offence is required to tell the police their details. If you do not do this, it is a criminal offence, with a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

## First notification

During the first three days of leaving prison, (or from conviction if you are in the community) you must go in person to a police station and tell them your details. When you leave prison you will be given a list of police station addresses. They should give you a copy of the form, which you should keep to show that you have registered.

## What information do I have to give?

- name, other names used (aliases)
- date and place of birth
- National Insurance number
- address at time of conviction
- current address
- if living with a child, a child is anyone under the age of 18
- if staying in a household where a child lives for at least 12 hours a day
- date of conviction, court and offence
- passport details: number and name
- details of bank accounts to which you have access (account number, sort code, bank, account name); expiry date, issuer and number(s) of credit cards and debit cards; savings account details
- any other address where you stay for seven nights or more in any 12 month period
- any other address where you stay for two or more periods which add up to seven days.

## Changes and 'periodic notification'

If any of your details change, you have three days to tell the police your new details. This includes if you get a new debit or credit card. Even if none of your details change, you must report to the police once every 12 months. This is called **periodic notification** and the police may send you a reminder letter about it.

The Secretary of State (a government minister) has the power to change the regulations so the information you are required to tell them may change in future. The police should inform you of changes.

### What if I am homeless?

If you are homeless or of no fixed abode, you must notify police weekly and tell them the area where you can be found. You can also contact Shelter for housing advice, their details are in the further information section.

### What happens when I'm on the register?

The police (Public Protection Team, not in uniform) will visit you at home to check you are living there and do an informal assessment. If they have a warrant, they have a right of entry and search. They may ask you what you have been doing. How often they visit you will depend on your risk level. They can come round at any time but, as they do not make appointments, if you are out you will not see them.

They may also decide to inform others about your convictions, see below under disclosure.

### How long am I on the register?

This depends on the length of your sentence at conviction. You can use the following table:

Length of sentence	Registration period	
	Adult	Under 18
30 months or more	Indefinitely	Indefinitely
More than 6 months – up to 30 months	10 years	5 years
6 months or less	7 years	3½ years
Community order	5 years	2½ years
Caution	2 years	1 year

For Extended Sentences, the original sentence plus the extended sentence is the length of sentence for the purpose of registration.

If you are on the register indefinitely, you can apply to the police to have your name removed after 15 years (eight years for juveniles). You must not be subject to a SHPO to ask for a review.

The police will consider whether you still need to be on the register. They do not have to remove you from the register.

Some of the factors they will consider when deciding whether to keep you on it are

- the seriousness of the original offence
- the time since the offence
- if you have broken any of the notification requirements
- your age at the time of the offence and the age of the victim
- any assessment of risk made by any MAPPA agency
- any other sexual offences
- any other evidence of risk of sexual harm.

If you want to review your risk assessment you would need to get evidence that your risk has reduced. You may want to think about getting a psychologist's report for this. You may have to pay for it yourself.

If the police turn down your request, you can appeal to a Magistrates Court. You will not get legal aid for this. You may have to pay a fee for this hearing. If your appeal fails, you have to wait at least eight years before you can ask for a review again. It might be helpful to get legal advice on this.

You can get a job or work as a volunteer when you are on the register, subject to your licence requirements, see above. Also, some information about you may be disclosed to your employer, see the section on disclosure of information below.

### **Foreign travel**

If you are on the register it does not mean you cannot travel abroad. However if you are planning to travel abroad, you must notify the police in person at least seven days in advance, with details of your travel plans, such as

- dates
- times
- airports
- numbers of flights
- where you are going.

You must also notify the police in person within three days of your return. You may also be restricted from travelling abroad by conditions in a SHPO, see below.

## **Human Rights**

The courts have looked at whether being on the register is a breach of human rights. They have considered for example, whether giving your details to the police is a breach of your right to privacy.

The courts have said that it is not a breach of your human rights, because giving the police some information is a reasonable condition.

The courts have also looked at whether it is fair that some people are on the register indefinitely. They decided that you should have the right to ask for a review after 15 years.

# What is Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)?

MAPPA is used by the police, probation and prison service to work with other professionals to manage violent and sexual offenders. It is used to protect the public from harm. The main MAPPA agencies are:-

- police
- probation
- prisons

It may also involve other agencies like 

- local authority
- social services
- housing
- children's services
- employment
- health services, including mental health services

These agencies can share information they have about your risk.

MAPPA is required to assess and monitor those convicted of a sex offence and manage the risk they pose. MAPPA allocates people to one of three levels depending on how serious their level of risk is. Level 3 is for people considered to be the highest risk.

Your situation may be discussed at MAPPA meetings. You will not attend the meeting or have any direct input into it.

## Further information:

More information about MAPPA can be found in the MAPPA Guidance Document which is available on the Ministry of Justice website.

## Risk

The risk you pose may be assessed or monitored in a variety of ways.

- OASys (Offender Assessment System)
- RM2000 (Risk Matrix 2000)
- ARMS (Active Risk Management System) – introduced from 2015

OASys is a computer based risk assessment tool used by prisons and probation to examine a prisoner's behaviour and assess the chances of them offending in the future.

In the community MAPPA use a tool called RM2000. This measures risk by looking at your history, like number of convictions for a sexual offence. RM2000 uses only the past in assessing risk and for this reason it is called a static risk assessment.

From 2015 the MAPPA (police and probation) introduced a new risk assessment tool called ARMS (Active Risk Management System). This uses things about your current life to assess your current risk.

Things which can affect your current level of risk include:

### **Risk factors**

- opportunity and access to potential victims
- sexual interest in children
- thinking about sex a lot
- seeing other people as a problem
- not managing your feelings, 'poor me'
- thinking rules don't apply to me
- drinking alcohol or taking drugs

### **Supportive factors**

- having friends
- commitment to not offending again
- having a partner *may* be a positive factor
- having a job or being active in the community

These can change over time and you can have some influence over them. They are all considered together.

If you have done any SOTP courses you may be aware of your own risk factors and how to manage them.

# Sexual Harm Prevention Order

A Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO), is put in place to protect the public from sexual harm by putting restrictions on your behaviour. Sexual harm means physical or psychological harm caused by you.

The police do not need to prove beyond reasonable doubt that you intend harm, just that you have acted in a way to make a SHPO necessary to protect the public.

These orders replaced SOPO (Sexual Offences Prevention Order) from 2014. If you had a SOPO before it will have been converted into a SHPO under the law and the conditions will remain the same.

A SHPO can be given to anyone convicted of a sexual offence (listed in Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act (2003)). You can also get a SHPO if convicted of some non-sexual offences. These are listed in Schedule 5 of Sexual Offences Act 2003.

The breaking of any of the SHPO conditions is a criminal offence, with a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

You can be given a SHPO when

- you are sentenced for a sexual offence
- if your behaviour shows you may be a risk.

When you are sentenced the judge has to consider whether a SHPO is necessary. Your solicitor may be able to give you advice about it.

In the community, the police may assess your behaviour as risky. If they do, the local police or National Crime Agency can apply to a court to make a SHPO. You should get details of the reasons why the police think you are a risk. If you disagree, you should get legal advice.

A SHPO can contain any restrictions necessary to protect the public from sexual harm. This can include restrictions on foreign travel. You can be prevented from travelling abroad or just to specific countries.

The conditions on a SHPO should not duplicate

- sex offender notification rules
- your licence conditions
- rules on not working with children.

A SHPO can make restrictions but cannot make you do things, such as attend a sex offender programme. While the SHPO is in place you will be subject to the notification requirements, as above.

A SHPO lasts a minimum of five years. If no period is set, it applies until it is appealed, discharged or a new order is made.

If you have foreign travel restrictions, it lasts a maximum of five years.

You can apply to a court at any time to have the SHPO changed. You should seek advice from a solicitor.

#### Examples of SHPO conditions

- not to approach or have any direct or indirect contact with the victim
- not to do any work (paid or unpaid) or take part in any recreational activity which means you might come into contact with someone under 16 years old
- not to travel to or attempt to travel to a particular country
- not to use any device such as a computer and mobile phone to connect to the internet unless it can store your history of internet use
- not to use a computer to download any photographs of anyone under the age of 16
- not to enter or remain in any house where anyone under 16 is present.

SHPO conditions must relate directly to your risk of sexual offending.

#### **Legal Aid**

You may be able to get Legal Aid if challenging a SHPO, but this can be very difficult.

If you need help with this, you can contact Liberty or the Prisoners' Advice Service for further help.

## Sexual Risk Orders (SRO)

A Sexual Risk Order (SRO) can be given to someone who has committed an act of a sexual nature, if the police think that you are a risk.

The difference between an SRO and an SHPO is that you do not need to have been convicted or cautioned for a sex offence to be given an SRO.

An act of a sexual nature includes behaviour that by itself would not be wrong but becomes wrong because of the intention to cause harm.

An SRO by itself does not make you subject to the register, but you do have to notify police of your name and home address. You must do this within three days of the order or whenever the information changes.

Breaking any of the conditions in an SRO is a criminal offence, with a maximum penalty of five years in prison. You also become subject to the register if you breach an SRO condition.

Like an SHPO, an SRO can make restrictions, but cannot make you do anything, apart from giving the police your name and address.

It lasts a minimum of two years. It can stop before then if the police agree. The police can apply to have it renewed if they believe you still pose a risk to the public. Like an SHPO, if you have a foreign travel restriction it lasts a maximum of five years.

If you wish to appeal, you have to put in an appeal to the Crown Court.

# Disclosure of Information

As part of MAPPA, the police may decide to disclose information about your convictions.

The reasons for providing information about you to other people must be due to your risk of sexual harm to the public or to individuals. For example, if you have a conviction for a child sex offence and a neighbour in the same building as you has children, they may be told about your case. Information about you or your offence can only be disclosed if you are considered to be a risk to somebody. The police will assess your situation carefully before they make a decision about this.

If you have a conviction for adult rape the police may inform anyone living in your household of your conviction if they consider there is a risk.

The police may decide to tell your employer of your convictions, whatever the job, if they consider you a high risk.

## Risk to children – Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (CSOD)

Anyone concerned about a child can ask if you have any sexual convictions.

The process is

- the person contacts the police with a potential concern
- the police check if there is any immediate risk of harm
- the person makes a formal application
- a face to face meeting is held with the person who applied
- the police do a risk assessment and make a decision
- disclosure is made at a face to face meeting, not in writing.

The police consider whether disclosure will prevent a risk of harm to children. They will consider whether you have convictions for sexual offences. Your convictions will be disclosed to the person best able to protect the child, not necessarily the person who applied for the information. The person who is told about your convictions is not allowed to tell anyone else.

During this process

- a face to face meeting is held with the person who applied
- it is explained that if disclosure is made, the information must be kept confidential and only used to keep the child in question safe
- criminal record checks are carried out on the applicant
- any disclosure is only made after a risk assessment.

In the pilot of the CSOD, 585 enquiries resulted in 21 disclosures of information. The police are aware of the risk to public order if information about those convicted of a sex offence is widely available.

You may or may not be told that a disclosure of your convictions has been made. In some situations you may be invited to disclose yourself.

If there is a risk to a child, that child may be referred to social services.

If a member of the public contacts the police with general concerns about your behaviour with children, the police will investigate and do a risk assessment. They may decide it would prevent a risk of harm to children to disclose your convictions. This would not fall under the CSOD.

## **The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme**

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) is about giving your current partner information to allow them to make an informed choice about their relationship with you. This may affect some people convicted of a sex offence as the Home Office guidance contains a list of offences which may be disclosed. It includes rape, sexual assault and sexual activity with a child.

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme was launched in March 2014. In the first year 1,335 disclosures were made.

The process works in a similar way to the CSOD: a face to face meeting will be held with the applicant. Anybody has a right to ask the police if a new partner has a history of domestic violence. When this happens, they may be told about your sexual convictions.

As a registered sex offender, the police will visit your home and if you have a partner living with you, they may decide to tell them about your convictions. This is called 'the right to know'. You may also have a condition in your licence which says you have to inform your probation officer of any new sexual relationships.

## **Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS)**

This scheme replaces the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). CRB checks are now called DBS checks.

It allows employers to see information on an applicant's criminal record.

- A standard disclosure will show convictions held on the Police National Computer (PNC). It will also show cautions, reprimands and final warnings.
- An enhanced disclosure is the same as the standard check plus investigations or information which did not lead to a conviction.

A person who is barred from working with children commits an offence if they apply for a job working with children. This also applies to volunteer work.

The DBS only applies to certain jobs, although you may still be asked about convictions on an application form.

## **Disqualification by association**

Association is about who you have contact with or who you know. If you have a conviction for a sexual offence against a child then anyone who lives in the same household as you is also disqualified from working in some jobs with children up to the age of eight.

## Further Information

The logo for Prison Reform Trust, featuring the words "PRISON REFORM TRUST" in white, stacked vertically, on a dark red rectangular background.

We are a small charity and we are independent of the prison service. Our advice and information service can help prisoners with:

- Prison rules
- Life in prison
- Your rights
- Prison conditions
- How to get help in prison

Prisoners can call us on our free information line: **0808 802 0060** - you do not need to have the number added to your PIN. The line is open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 3:30 and 5:30 pm.

At other times, you can call on **0207 251 5070**. This number is open from Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 5.30pm. This number is **not free** but you do not need to put it on your pin.

You can also write to us at:  
Prison Reform Trust  
FREEPOST ND 6125  
London, EC1B 1PN (no stamp needed)

Family members and friends can email us at: [adviceandinformation@prisonreformtrust.org.uk](mailto:adviceandinformation@prisonreformtrust.org.uk)  
[www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk](http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk)

### Information links

If you are in prison and would like one of the following documents, please ask the library or contact the Prison Reform Trust.

**Prison Service Instructions** can be found at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/offenders/psis>

**Prison Service Orders** can be found at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/offenders/psos>

Probation Instructions can be found at:  
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/offenders/probationservice/probation-instructions>

Information on **probation complaints** can be found on the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's website: <http://www.ppo.gov.uk/>

Information on **sex offender notification requirements** can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-offences-act-2003-notification-requirements-england-and-wales-regulations-2012>

Helpful information and advice about **registration, SOPOs and other sex offender issues** from the former prisoners charity Unlock:

<http://hub.unlock.org.uk/knowledgebase/convictions-sexual-offences-2/>

Guidance on the review of the **notification requirements**:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/98378/review-notification-requirements.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/98378/review-notification-requirements.pdf)

The **MAPPA Guidance Document** contains information about notification (“sex offenders register”), SHPO (sexual harm prevention orders), foreign travel and DBS and can be found at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/442151/2015-07-03\\_FINAL\\_Guidance\\_Part\\_2\\_SOA\\_2003.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/442151/2015-07-03_FINAL_Guidance_Part_2_SOA_2003.pdf)

Information on the evaluation of the pilot of **Active Risk Management System** can be found at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/308159/sex-offender-management-and-dynamic-risk.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/308159/sex-offender-management-and-dynamic-risk.pdf)

Information on **Sexual Harm Prevention Orders** can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/251341/27\\_28\\_sexual\\_offences\\_and\\_VOO\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/251341/27_28_sexual_offences_and_VOO_fact_sheet.pdf)

Guidance on the **Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme** can be found here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/184095/disclosure-scheme-guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/184095/disclosure-scheme-guidance.pdf)

The **Domestic Violence Scheme** guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-violence-disclosure-scheme-pilot-guidance>

Human Rights case on **right to have a review of notification** requirements

<http://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKSC/2010/17.html>

**Disclosure Barring Service** - Overview

<https://www.gov.uk/disclosure-and-barring-service-criminal-record-checks-referrals-and-complaints>

<http://hub.unlock.org.uk/knowledgebase/barring-2/>

Guidance from Department of Education on **disqualification**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006>

Explanation of **DBS** regulated activity

[http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news\\_articles/Pages/disclosure-and-barring-service.aspx](http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/news_and_events/news_articles/Pages/disclosure-and-barring-service.aspx)

## Sources of support

If you want help after a conviction for a sexual offence, there are some sources of support, advice and information that you can access. The following may be helpful:-

### For former prisoners:

**Lucy Faithfull Foundation:** A child protection charity which works with people who have sexually harmed or fear they may harm a child. They run private courses in Epsom, Surrey and provide a range of advice publications.

Birmingham office: Bordesley Hall, The Holloway, Alvechurch, Birmingham, B48 7QA, telephone: 01527 591922.

Epsom office: Nightingale House, 46-48 East Street, Epsom, KT17 1HQ, telephone: 01372 847160

Confidential free helpline: 0808 1000 900

Email: [help@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:help@stopitnow.org.uk)

Referrals: [referrals@lucyfaithfull.org.uk](mailto:referrals@lucyfaithfull.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.lucyfaithfull.org.uk>

**Stop it Now:** Stop it now is part of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation. They run a free telephone helpline for those concerned about their sexual behaviour towards children. You can talk to an experienced counsellor by appointment.

Free helpline: 0808 1000 900

Email: [help@stopitnow.org.uk](mailto:help@stopitnow.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.stopitnow.org.uk/>

**Circles UK:** Circles of Support and Accountability provide social support and practical guidance to sex offenders working with volunteers, to encourage social reintegration into the community. There are a number of Circles around the UK. The head office and give you details of any Circles local to you.

Head office Abbey House, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BE.

Telephone: 0118 950 0068

Website: <http://www.circles-uk.org.uk>

Email: [info@circles-uk.org.uk](mailto:info@circles-uk.org.uk)

This is not a helpline, but they can direct you to your regional Circles group.

**Langley House Trust:** The Langley House Trust is an accommodation provider. They are also a support and care provider. They deliver rehabilitation services across England, providing support to adult female and male offenders and those at risk of offending. Their services are for men and women aged 18 or over. Langley House Trust, PO Box 6364, Coventry, CV6 9LL.

Telephone: 03330 035 025

General Enquiries: [info@langleyhoustrust.org](mailto:info@langleyhoustrust.org)

Referral Enquiries: [referrals@langleyhoustrust.org](mailto:referrals@langleyhoustrust.org)

**Shelter:** Shelter is a housing and homelessness charity, their housing experts can advise you, no matter what your housing situation.

Free helpline: 0808 800 4444 - the helpline is open 8am to 8pm on weekdays and 8am to 5pm on weekends, 365 days a year.

Website: <http://england.shelter.org.uk/>

**Unlock:** Unlock offers information, advice, training and advocacy, dealing with the ongoing effects of criminal convictions. Their website contains helpful information, particularly in relation to opening bank accounts and offering access to insurance. Helpline, Unlock, Maidstone Community Support Centre, 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1HH.

Helpline: 01634 247350

Email address: [advice@unlock.org.uk](mailto:advice@unlock.org.uk).

Website: <http://unlock.org.uk>

### **For prisoners:**

**Prisoners' Advice Service:** for legal advice and information to prisoners in England and Wales regarding their rights, the application of the Prison Rules and conditions of imprisonment. Their address is PO Box 46199, London, EC1M 4XA

Telephone: 020 7253 3323 / 0845 430 8923 between 9:30am and 5:30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Website: <http://www.prisonersadvice.org.uk>

**Liberty:** Liberty campaigns to protect basic rights and freedoms through the courts, in Parliament and in the wider community. They take on a limited number of test cases and run a legal advice helpline. Liberty House, 26-30 Strutton Ground, London, SW1P 2HR

Advice line: 0845 123 2307 or 020 3145 0461

### **For families:**

**Prisoners' and Offenders' Families Helpline:** Providing information and support for the families of offenders, from arrest through to release and beyond.

Free helpline: 0808 808 2003

Email: [info@offendersfamilieshelpline.org](mailto:info@offendersfamilieshelpline.org)

Website: <http://www.offendersfamilieshelpline.org>

**Prisoners' Families and Friends Service:** Providing support, friendship and advice to the families and friends of anyone sentenced to imprisonment or remanded in custody.

Free helpline for prisoners' families: 0808 808 3444

<http://www.pffs.org.uk/services/>

**Mosac:** Mosac supports non-abusing parents and carers of sexually abused children. They run a free confidential helpline

Telephone: 0800 980 1958 or 020 8293 999

Website: [www.mosac.org.uk](http://www.mosac.org.uk)

## **This booklet covers:**

- Release on licence
- The sex offenders' register
- Police monitoring of sex offenders (MAPPA)
- Risk
- SHPO (Sex Harm Prevention Orders, formerly SOPOs)
- Information disclosure
- Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS)

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## **Feedback**

We would be interested in any feedback you would like to give us on any of the subjects raised in this information booklet. We would be particularly interested to know of any other subjects that it would be helpful to have more information about.

If you can access the internet you can email: [adviceandinformation@prisonreformtrust.org.uk](mailto:adviceandinformation@prisonreformtrust.org.uk)

*Produced with assistance from Paul Thomas  
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