

SECTION 2: CONDUCTING A COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

30 Minutes



Lecture Content	Teaching Notes
<p>TOPIC: INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)</p> <p>LEARNING OBJECTIVES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ To fulfill the local legal requirements for notifying communities about the presence of offenders convicted of certain sexual offenses;❑ To respond to community members' questions about their rights and responsibilities with respect to this notification. <p>The moderator should begin the meeting by introducing her/himself and describe her/his qualifications, as well as introduce other presenters and their affiliations.</p>	<p><i>Please note that this section of the meeting is intended to be used only by those jurisdictions that are using the meeting as an occasion to notify the community about the presence of a specific offender or offenders.</i></p> <p>➤Use Slides #1-3: Title and Learning Objectives</p> <p><i>Depending on the level of comfort level among the participants with this subject (i.e., if this is not the first such meeting held), you may want to ask them to hold all questions until the end of the meeting and/or ask them to write their questions on a (provided) card. In some instances, allowing questions during the course of the meeting may result in disruption of the planned agenda. It is likely that a thorough and well planned agenda will address most of the audience's questions in due time and at an appropriate point in the educational process. Once the groundwork for the meeting is laid, proceed to the agenda</i></p>



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<p data-bbox="186 275 592 310">TOPIC: NOTIFICATION</p> <p data-bbox="186 312 337 342">(10 minutes)</p> <p data-bbox="186 386 876 464">The agenda of this section of the meeting should progress in the following manner:</p> <ul data-bbox="240 506 941 1885" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="240 506 941 898">• Inform the audience about your state’s sex offender registration and community notification laws, and local supervision and treatment efforts to safely manage these offenders. (Section 3 of this curriculum is intended for use in this context by providing information on sex offender management—informing citizens of what is being done to safely and effectively manage offenders in the community).<li data-bbox="240 900 941 1486">• Acknowledge the audience’s interest in their own safety and the safety of their neighborhoods. Explain that stability is a key ingredient in preventing reoffense. If the offender is intimidated, harassed, or threatened because of citizen overreaction, it can cause the offender to feel out of control and may lead the offender to seek power in harmful ways. It can also lead to the offender “going underground,” or hiding from the criminal justice professionals charged with his or her supervision, avoiding helpful therapeutic opportunities, and even disengaging from positive other activities, such as work.<li data-bbox="240 1488 941 1686">• Explain the potential consequences of abuse of the law, through harassment of the offender. Explain that vigilantism is against the law and that if citizens take matters into their own hands, they can be prosecuted.<li data-bbox="240 1688 941 1885">• Provide a brief description of the specific efforts that are underway to safely manage this offender, emphasizing the supervision methods, special conditions, and therapeutic interventions being employed with this	<p data-bbox="966 884 1356 961">➤Use Slide #4: Community Safety is Our Concern</p> <p data-bbox="966 1493 1393 1570">➤Use Slide #5: Harassment is Against the Law</p>

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<p>offender.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide contact information for community members if they have further questions about the offender. (You may want to consider using Section 4 as the framework for inviting citizens to consider how they can be part of a sex offender management strategy.) • Provide information about the sex offender subject to community notification as required by statute and policy in your jurisdiction. This probably will include a general description (or photograph) of the offender, address at which the offender will reside, and the crime of conviction. 	<p><i>Feel free to create more slides with specific contact information and offender information in the same format as the slides provided.</i></p>



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<p data-bbox="186 275 938 344">TOPIC: QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD (15 minutes)</p> <p data-bbox="186 386 938 499">Finally, allow time for questions and answers, using all members of your presentation team to respond as appropriate.</p> <p data-bbox="186 541 938 890">Now that all questions have been answered or referred appropriately, we will now close (this section of) the meeting and suggest all the participants may want to read the handout we're providing called <i>Community Notification and Education</i>, which summarizes how communities around the nation are responding to the desire of citizens to have more information about sex offenders living in their neighborhoods.</p>	<p data-bbox="966 520 1409 1654"> Refer to Handout: <i>Community Notification and Education</i>, a policy and practice brief developed by the Center for Sex Offender Management, is included in its entirety with the participant materials for Section 2 of this curriculum. Another useful reference is <i>Community Notification: A Blueprint for Success</i> published by the National Community Notification Information and Education Services, Inc. 2000. P.O. Box 52, Lake Stevens, Washington 98258-0052. This provides suggestions about community notification procedures and includes overview information about federal legislation in this area. Another such resource is <i>Notification and Education About Sex Offenders: A Guide for Conducting Community Meetings</i> developed by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections in 2001.</p>