



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:  
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Monday, Sept. 14, 2009

## 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," said Sheriff Steve Boyer. "Further, his previous criminal history places him in a classification level that reflects the *potential* to re-offend."

**Name:** Arnold Jeffery Vahey, Native American male, age 54.

**Residence location:** Vahey is scheduled to be released from prison on Friday, Oct. 5, 2009, after having been incarcerated with the Washington State Department of Corrections since December 2007 after being convicted of failure to register as a sex offender. He has notified the sheriff's office that he will reside in the 6000 block of Clover Valley Road SE in South Kitsap.

**Description:** 5' 11" ht., 190 lbs. wt., hair: black, eyes: brown.

**Criminal history:** According to court documents Vahey was convicted of rape, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, in 1988, for sexually assaulting and strangling a teenage girl whom he attacked while she was walking at night.

In 1985 Vahey was convicted of burglary for entering a residence and assaulting one of two adult women who lived in the house.

Vahey has previous convictions for burglary, narcotics offenses, motor vehicle theft, probation violations and failing to register as a sex offender. During his incarceration for the rape conviction he declined to participate in sex offender treatment.

**Community meeting:** A community notification meeting, concerning Vahey, is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 29, at the Bob Oke Community Center, Long Lake County Park, 5448 Long Lake Road SE in South Kitsap.



**Arnold Jeffery Vahey**

**Photo: Washington State Department of Corrections**

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 Sept. 9 there are 20,297 sex offenders who have registered as required and are living in the State of Washington. Of this number, 527 are living in locations within the unincorporated areas of Kitsap County, while 253 offenders are living within the limits of incorporated municipalities in the county; 89 are incarcerated in jail or with the state department of corrections and 17 are transient.

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.

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