



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:
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Monday, March 29, 2010

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: Michael Leroy Cole, white male, age 35.

Residence location: Cole was previously registered as living within the City of Bremerton. He has provided notice to the sheriff's office that he now will be residing at a residence in the 5700 block of NW Eells Road, in the Tracyton community area of East Bremerton.

Description: 5' 08" ht., 140 lbs. wt., brown-colored hair and hazel-colored eyes.

Community meeting: There will be a community notification meeting, concerning Cole, at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 30, 2010, in the Poplar Room of the Silverdale Community Center, 9729 Silverdale Way NW, in Silverdale.

Criminal history: According to court documents, Cole was convicted of child molestation, 1st degree, in 2000 (Kitsap County) after sexually assaulting two young girls, ages three & five, who were known to him. Additionally, in 1994 Cole was convicted of sexual abuse, 1st degree, in Perry County, Missouri, after sexually assaulting another three year-old girl who was known to him. Cole also has a 1990 conviction for child molestation, 1st degree (Kitsap County) after sexually abusing a three year-old girl who was known to him. Cole has participated in sex offender treatment.



Michael Leroy Cole

Date of photograph: 02/11/2010

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 this date, there are 20,445 sex offenders who have registered as required and are living in the State of Washington. Of this number, 532 are living in locations within the unincorporated areas of Kitsap County, to include 14 transients, while 248 offenders are living within the limits of incorporated municipalities in the county and 100 are in jail or prison.

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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