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Robert Doar
Commissioner

Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	05-INF-26 Revised
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Division of Employment and Transitional Supports
Date:	Revision Date: December 29, 2005/Original Release: December 23, 2005
Subject:	Notification of Local Districts Concerning Release of Sex Offenders
Suggested Distribution:	Temporary Assistance Directors Homeless Liaisons Sex Offender Liaisons
Contact Person(s):	Bureau of Shelter Service (518 486 7738)
Attachments:	Department of Parole Notice Department of Corrections Notice
Attachment Available On – Line:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
94-ADM20 02-ADM-02			NYS Correction Law §72-c		

Section 2

I. Purpose

State law now requires that prior notice be given to local social services districts when certain sex offenders are released from State correctional facilities. This informational letter (INF) describes the new provisions of law and the noticing procedures that will be used by State agencies.

II. Background

Enacted on October 1, 2005, Chapter 410 of the Laws of 2005 requires that “prior to the release, discharge, parole or release to post-release supervision of an inmate designated as a level two or three sex offender, the social services district in the county in which the inmate expects to reside should be notified when information is available that indicates that the inmate is likely to seek homeless services upon release from state prison.” The law is now codified as section 72-c of the State Corrections Law.

Prior notification is intended to give local social services districts additional time to plan for and place homeless sex offenders. Many local districts have reported that homeless sex offenders are difficult to place especially if they arrive in the district outside of normal business hours.

III. Program Implications

Beginning early in 2006, local social services districts will receive notices from either the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) or the Division of Parole (DOP) when level two or three sex offenders are leaving state prison and are expected to be homeless. Initially, these notifications will be made via fax to the sex offender liaison designated by the local social services districts. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) recently surveyed local districts to identify designees. The initial list has been supplied to DOCS and DOP by OTDA. OTDA will maintain responsibility for maintaining and updating the sex offender liaison list. Any changes you may wish to make in your designations should be addressed to Lorraine Noval (Lorraine.Noval@otda.state.ny.us).

DOCS and DOP notices will include the name, date of birth, NYSID/DIN identification numbers, release date, correctional facility that the individual will be released from, county of expected residence, and if the individual is on parole, the parole officer’s name and contact information. Models of the forms that will be used by DOCS and DOP are attached.

Notices will be sent to the local districts whenever two conditions are met:

1. the releasee is deemed to be a sex offender or to need specialized parole supervision because of the sexual basis for prior acts, and also
2. the releasee is deemed to be likely to apply for homeless services upon arrival in the social services district.

Depending on the circumstances surrounding release, the amount of time between the provision of the notice and the arrival of the releasee in the local district may vary. Districts will be notified when the pertinent facts concerning the releasee’s intended destination and homeless status become known to the releasing agency.

Issued By _____

Name: Russell Sykes

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Division of Employment and Transitional Supports