



Office of Justice Programs
Innovation • Partnerships • Safe Neighborhoods

Protecting Children: Our Duty, Our Future

The U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is committed to the safety of children and youth through grants, research, support of USDOJ initiatives such as Project Safe Childhood, training and technical assistance, and outreach to our partners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. For Assistant Attorney General and National Amber Alert Coordinator Regina B. Schofield, OJP's effectiveness in protecting children is the litmus test by which we measure our success. OJP continues to fight gangs with programs like Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T), to strengthen community safety with Project Safe Neighborhoods, and to protect our children from dangerous predators with AMBER Alert and the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) taskforces.

The President recently appointed Laura Rogers to be Director of the Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) Office. Ms. Rogers brings years of experience as a prosecutor and national expert on child abuse to OJP. The SMART Office continues OJP's mission to protect children by providing coordination and leadership. Established by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248), the SMART Office supports efforts to monitor and track sex offenders and protect children and the general public from sexual abuse, assault, and exploitation by:

- Administering the standards for the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) set forth in Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act;
- Cooperating with and providing technical assistance to states, territories, units of local government, tribal governments, and other public and private organizations;
- Tracking important legislative and legal developments related to sex offenders; and
- Administering grant programs relating to sex offender registration, notification, tracking, and monitoring

"Protecting our children is our solemn responsibility. It's what we must do. When a child's life or innocence is taken it is a terrible loss -- it's an act of unforgivable cruelty. Our society has a duty to protect our children from exploitation and danger."

-President George W. Bush