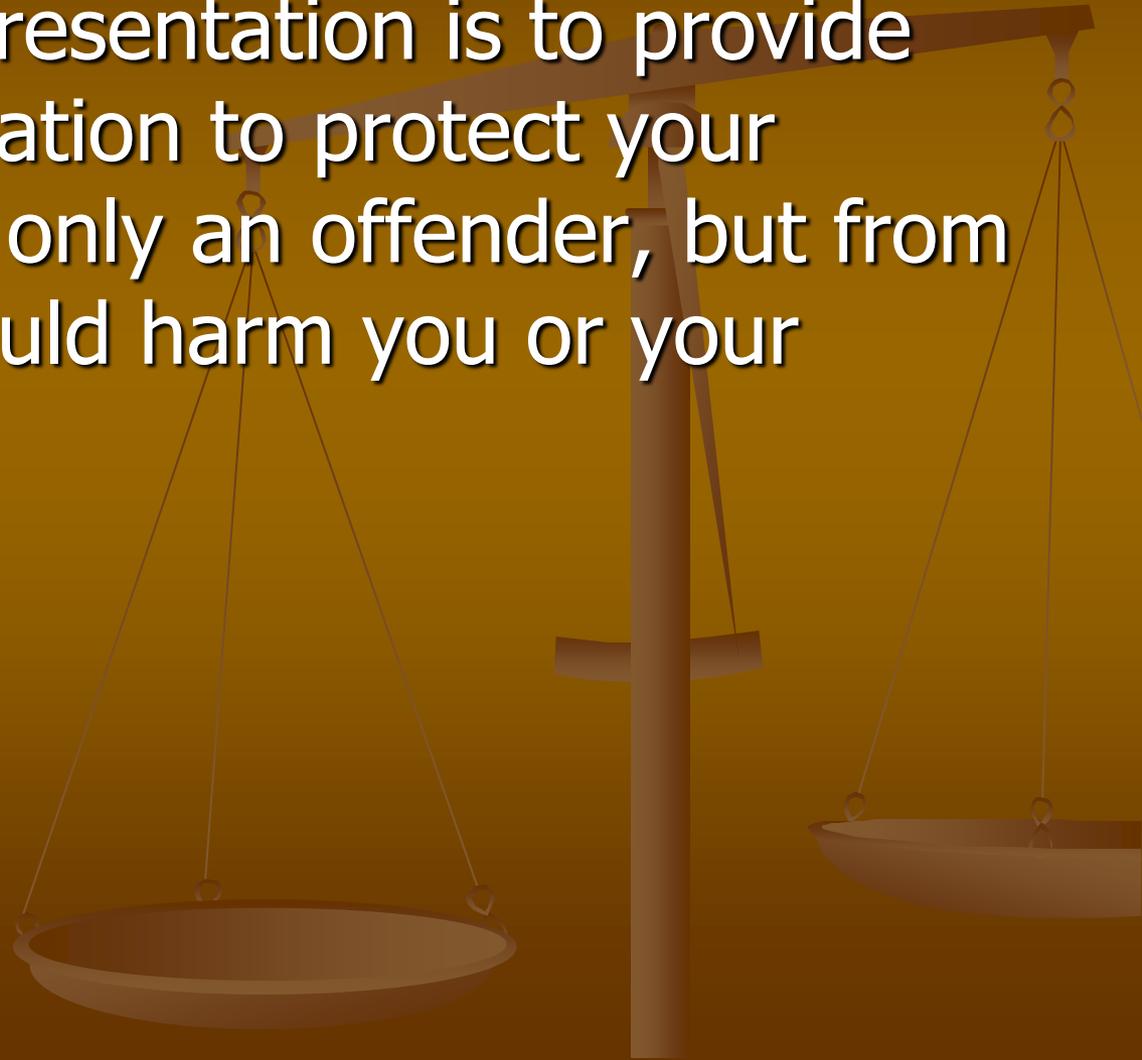




REGISTERED SEX  
OFFENDER  
COMMUNITY  
NOTIFICATION

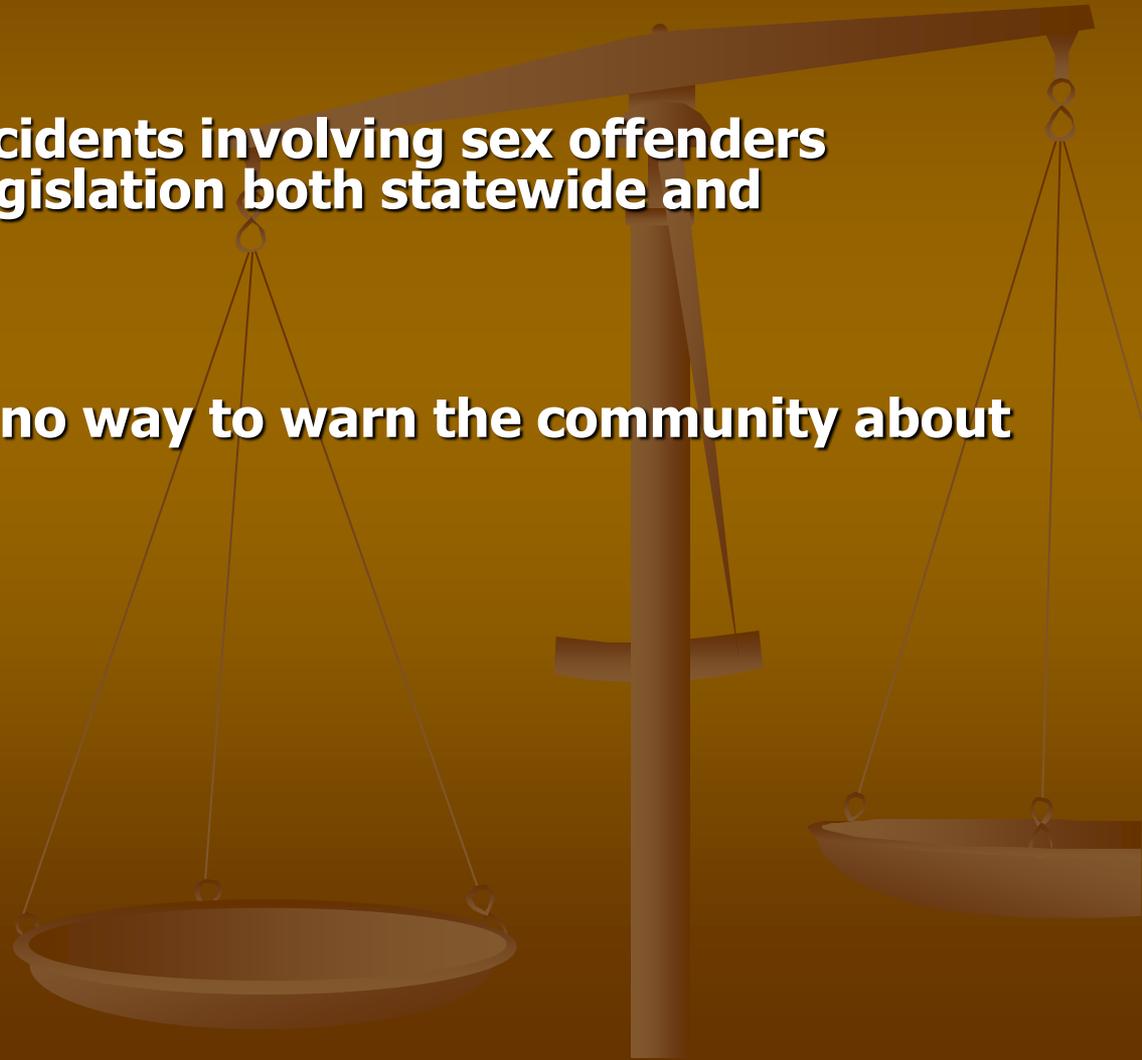
# GOAL

The goal of this presentation is to provide you with information to protect your family from not only an offender, but from anyone who would harm you or your children



# HISTORY OF THE LAW WASHINGTON STATE

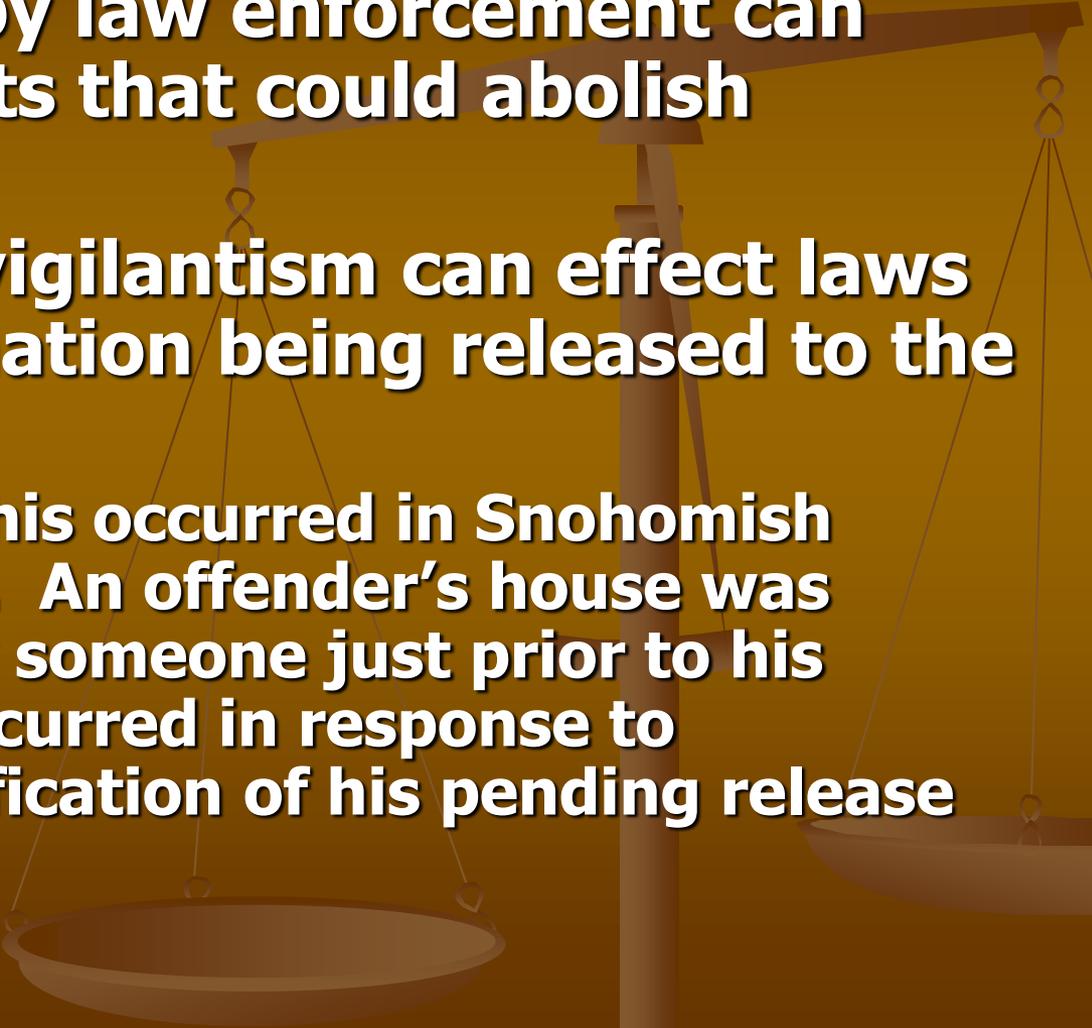
- ◆ **Several high profile incidents involving sex offenders caused the need for legislation both statewide and nationwide**
- ◆ **Law enforcement had no way to warn the community about offenders like these**



# TASK FORCE ON COMMUNITY PROTECTION

- ◆ **After these incidents, then Governor Gardner established the task force on Community Protection. Recommendations of this task force resulted in the Community Protection Act of 1990**
- ◆ **This act provided the following**
  - ◆ **Civil commitment of sexually violent predators**
  - ◆ **Enhanced victim services (counseling and medical expenses)**
  - ◆ **Sex offender registration**
  - ◆ **Community notification**
- ◆ **This is how we are able to share information about these offenders**

# **CURRENT LAWS COULD BE TAKEN AWAY AT ANY TIME.**

- **Misuse of laws by law enforcement can result in law suits that could abolish existing laws**
  - **Harassment or vigilantism can effect laws as to any information being released to the public**
    - **An example of this occurred in Snohomish County early on. An offender's house was burned down by someone just prior to his release. This occurred in response to community notification of his pending release**
- 

# RISK LEVEL RATING SYSTEM

**Level I offender: low risk to re-offend**

**Level II offender: moderate risk to re-offend**

**Level III offender: high risk to re-offend  
(predatory)**



# RELEASE OF INFORMATION REGARDING OFFENDERS

## Level I offenders

**Request of a specific offender by name or:**

- *The community has to show a need to have knowledge about the offender. Just a phone call wanting to know if any sex offenders live in the area is **not** considered a need to know. An inquiry showing the law enforcement agency that the offender is in fact **acting out** in the community becomes a need to know*

# RELEASE OF INFORMATION REGARDING OFFENDERS

## Level II offenders

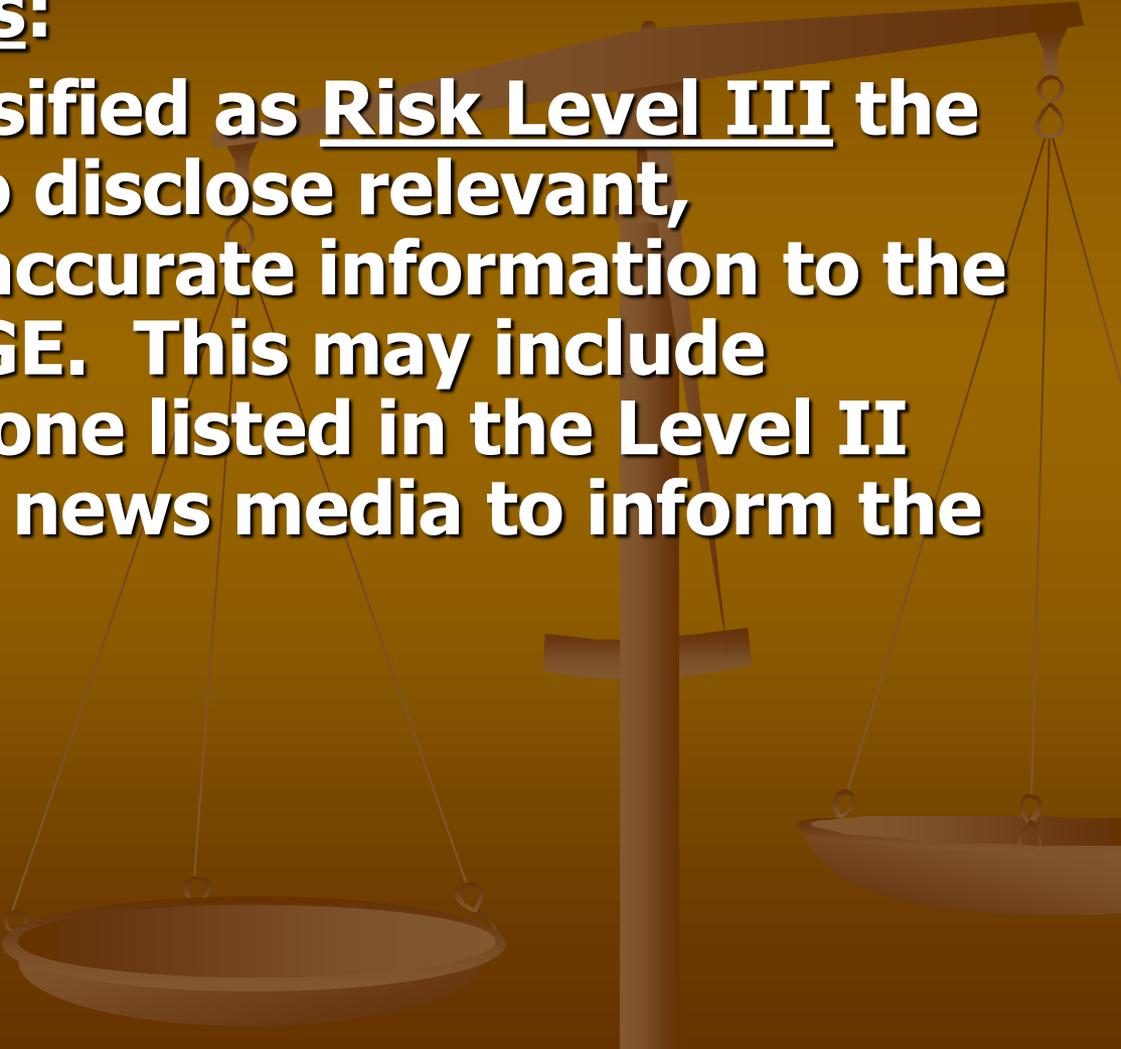
For offenders classified as Risk Level II, the agency may disclose relevant, necessary, and accurate information to:

- Public schools, Private schools
- Child day care centers, Family day care providers
- Businesses and organizations that serve primarily children, women, or vulnerable adults, neighbors and community groups near where the offender resides, expects to reside, or is regularly found.
- The internet

# RELEASE OF INFORMATION REGARDING OFFENDERS

## Level III offenders:

For offenders classified as Risk Level III the agency may also disclose relevant, necessary, and accurate information to the **PUBLIC AT LARGE**. This may include informing everyone listed in the Level II release and the news media to inform the public at large



# HOW MANY REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS (as of June 2017)

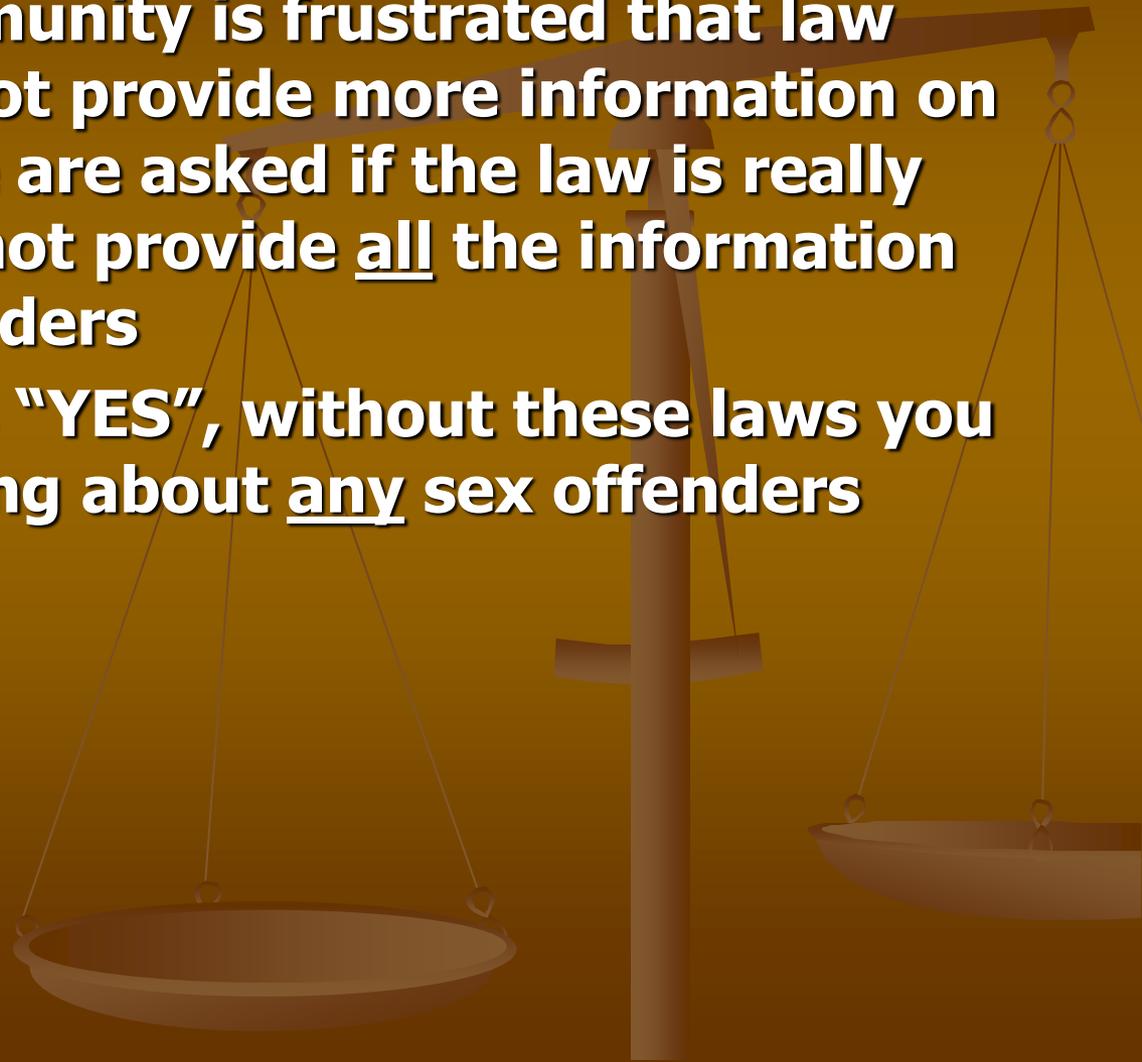
- 18,618 in Washington State
- 337 in Skagit County
- 69 in Mount Vernon



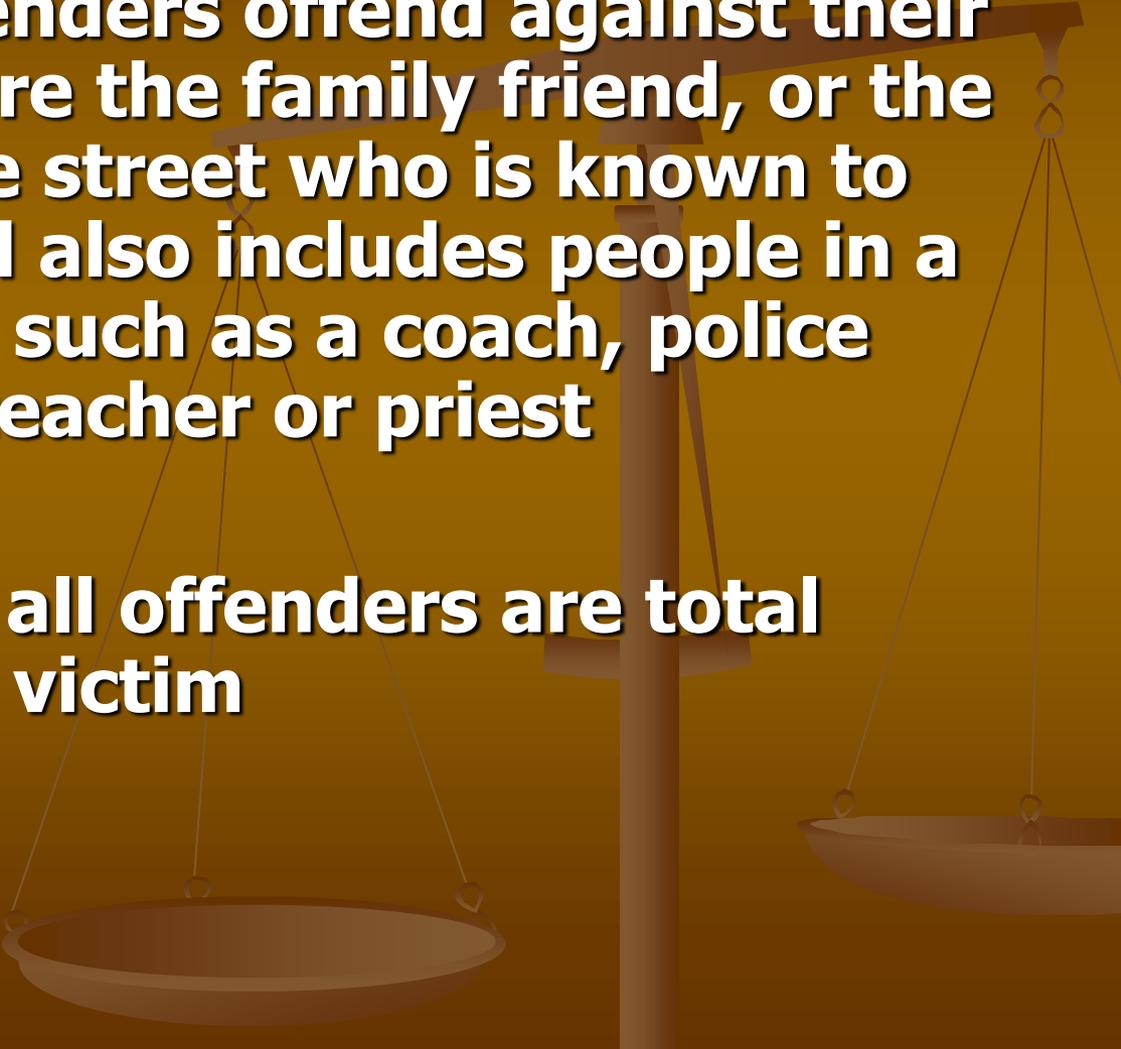
# WHY CAN'T WE KNOW MORE?

Sometimes the community is frustrated that law enforcement cannot provide more information on sex offenders. We are asked if the law is really worth it if we cannot provide all the information about all sex offenders

Simply the answer is "YES", without these laws you would know nothing about any sex offenders



# WHO ARE THE OFFENDERS?



**85-90% of all offenders offend against their own family, or are the family friend, or the person down the street who is known to the offender and also includes people in a position of trust such as a coach, police officer, doctor, teacher or priest**

**Only about 2% of all offenders are total strangers to the victim**



# THE TRUTH ABOUT RE-OFFENSE

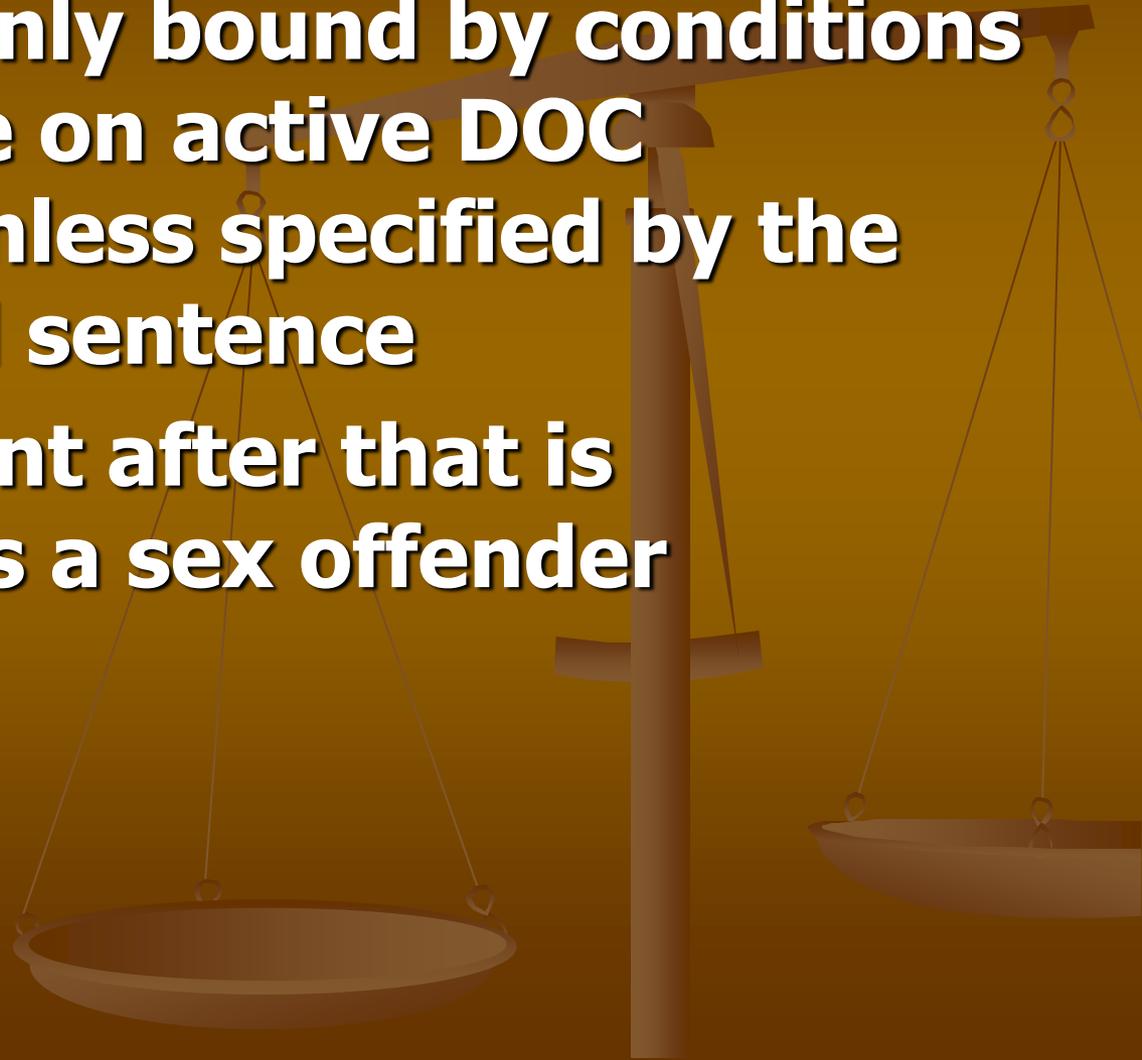
**About 70% of sex offenders are never  
convicted of new offenses at all**

**Latest re-offense studies as low as 18%**

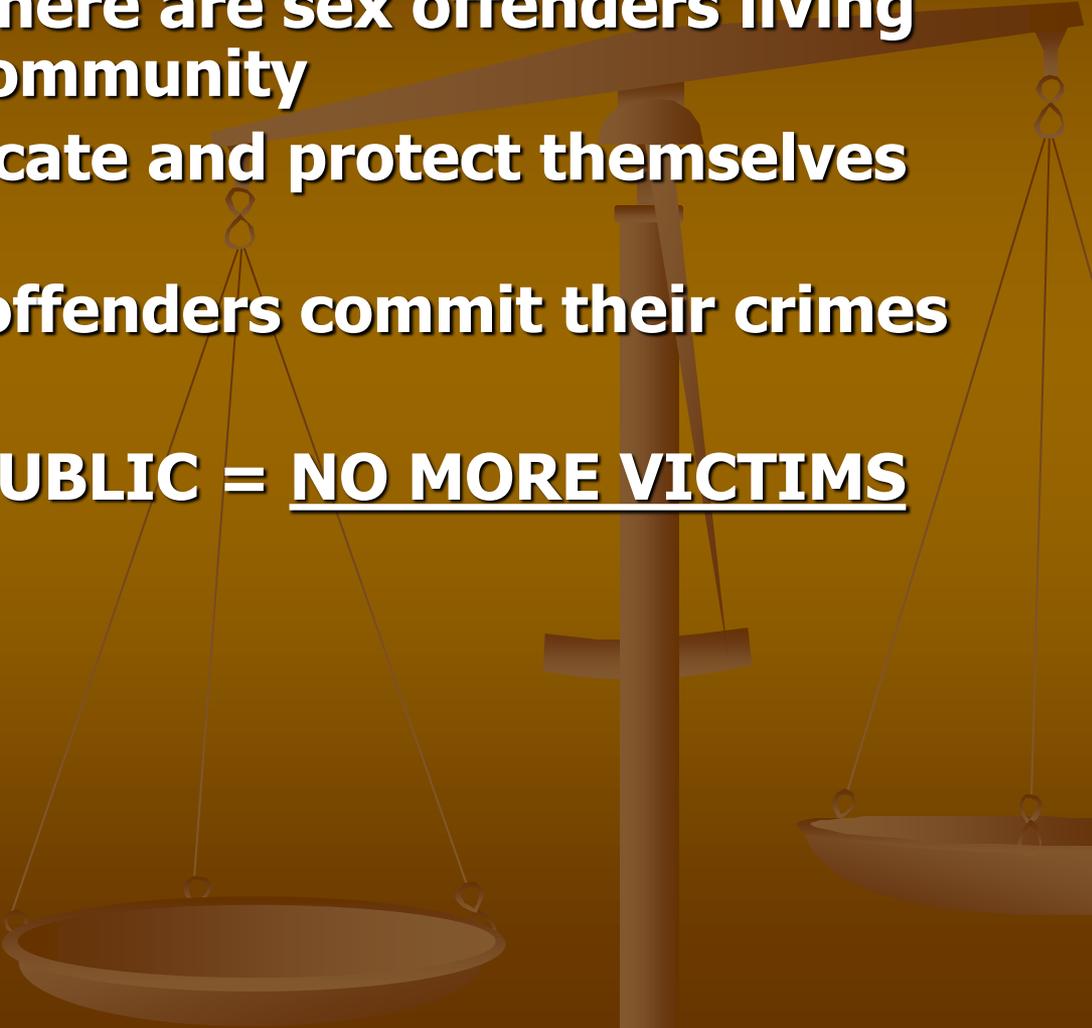
# WHY DO SOME OFFENDERS NOT HAVE ANY CONDITIONS

**Offenders are only bound by conditions while they are on active DOC supervision unless specified by the judgment and sentence**

**Only requirement after that is registration as a sex offender**



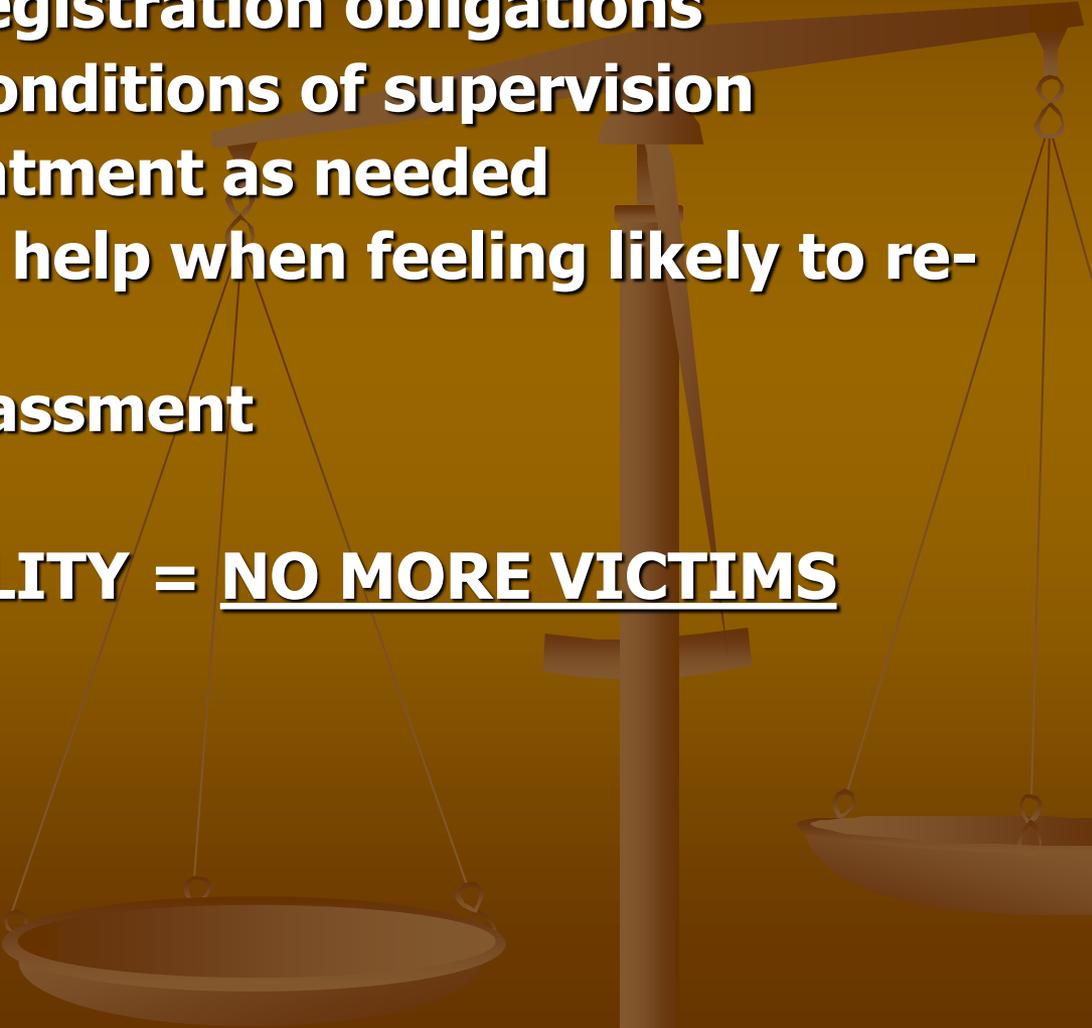
# AN EDUCATED PUBLIC



- ◆ Understands that there are sex offenders living throughout their community
- ◆ Takes steps to educate and protect themselves and their families
- ◆ Understands how offenders commit their crimes

**AN EDUCATED PUBLIC = NO MORE VICTIMS**

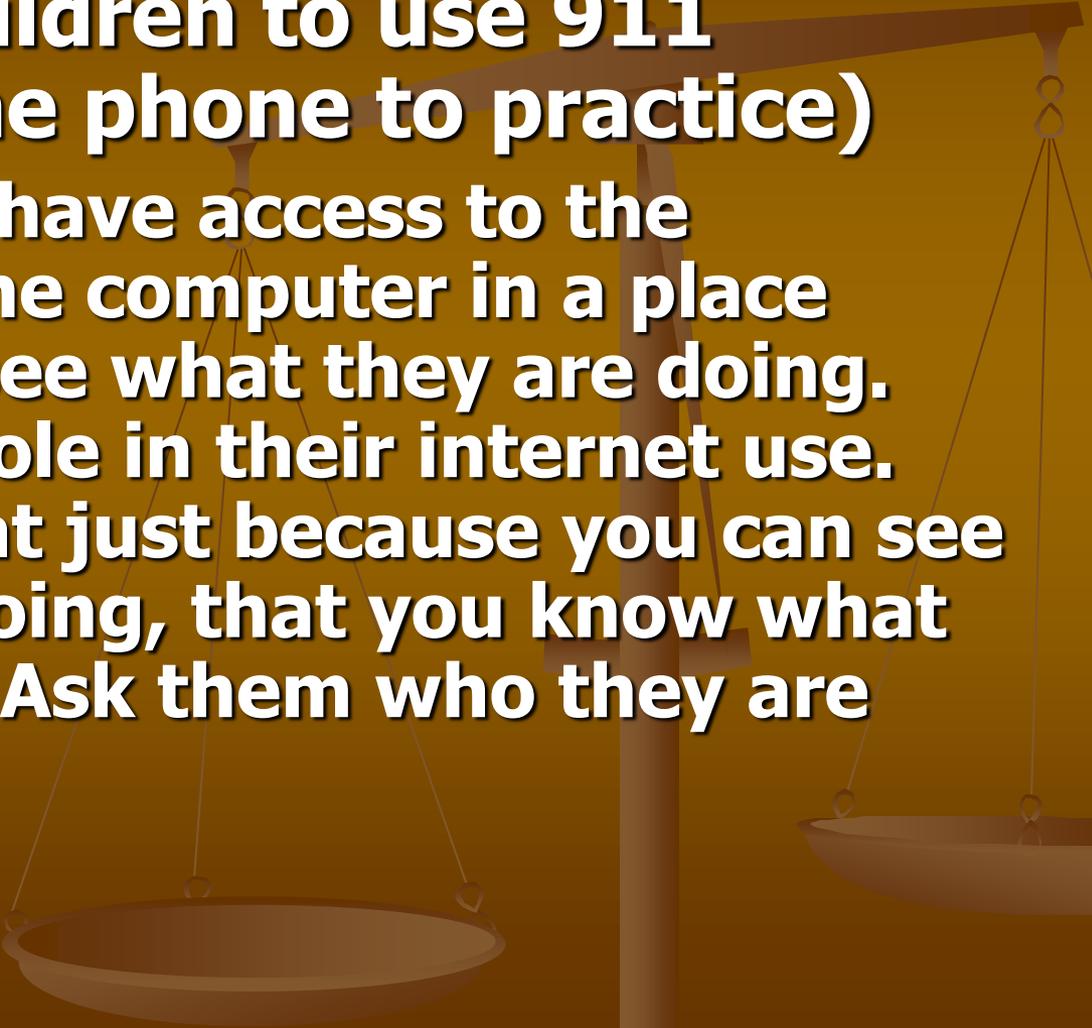
# OFFENDER STABILITY



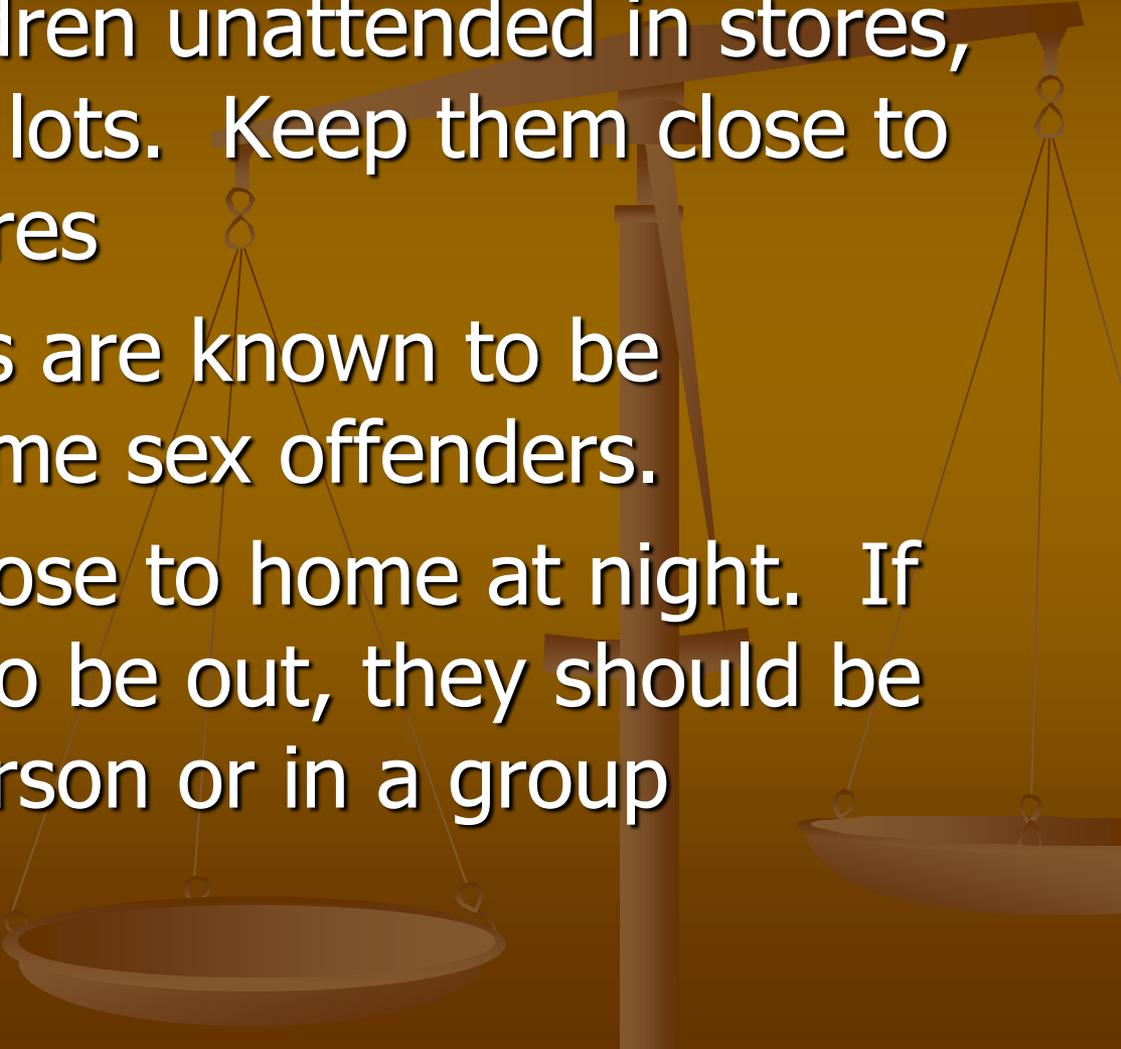
- ◆ Compliance with registration obligations
- ◆ Compliance with conditions of supervision
- ◆ Seeks ongoing treatment as needed
- ◆ Willing to seek out help when feeling likely to re-offend
- ◆ Living without harassment

**OFFENDER STABILITY = NO MORE VICTIMS**

# FAMILY SAFETY RULES

- **Teach your children to use 911 (disconnect the phone to practice)**
  - **If your children have access to the internet, keep the computer in a place where you can see what they are doing. Take an active role in their internet use. Don't expect that just because you can see what they are doing, that you know what they are doing. Ask them who they are talking to, etc.**
- 

# Family Safety Rules

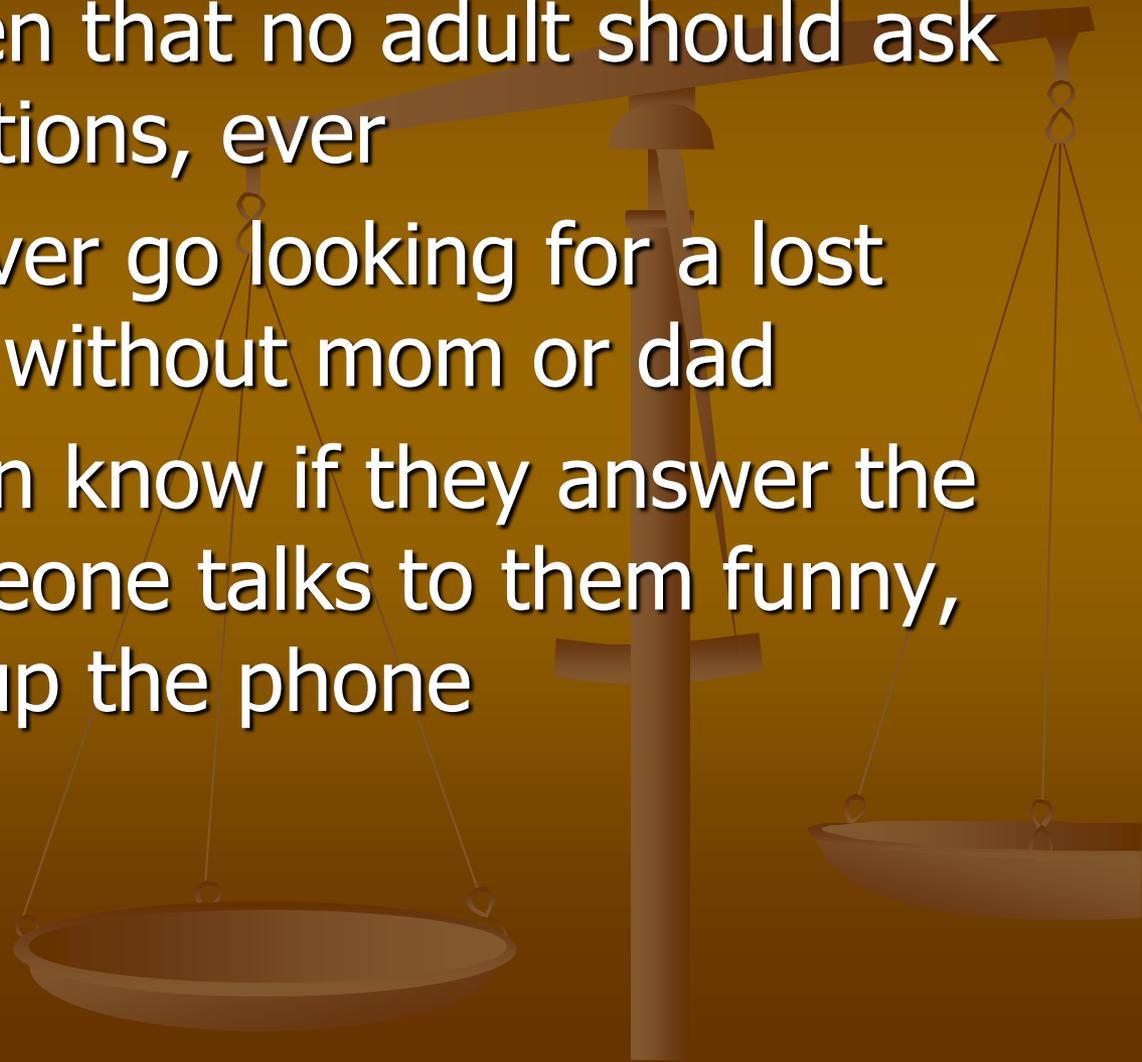
- Don't leave children unattended in stores, cars, or parking lots. Keep them close to you while in stores
  - Public restrooms are known to be hangouts for some sex offenders.
  - Keep children close to home at night. If they are going to be out, they should be with another person or in a group
- 

# Family Safety Rules

- Always lock your doors. Don't leave them unlocked for your children for when they come home from school
- Talk to your children about what the proper terminology is for their private parts. Let them know these parts are important and no one has the right to touch them there
- They should share secrets with mom and dad

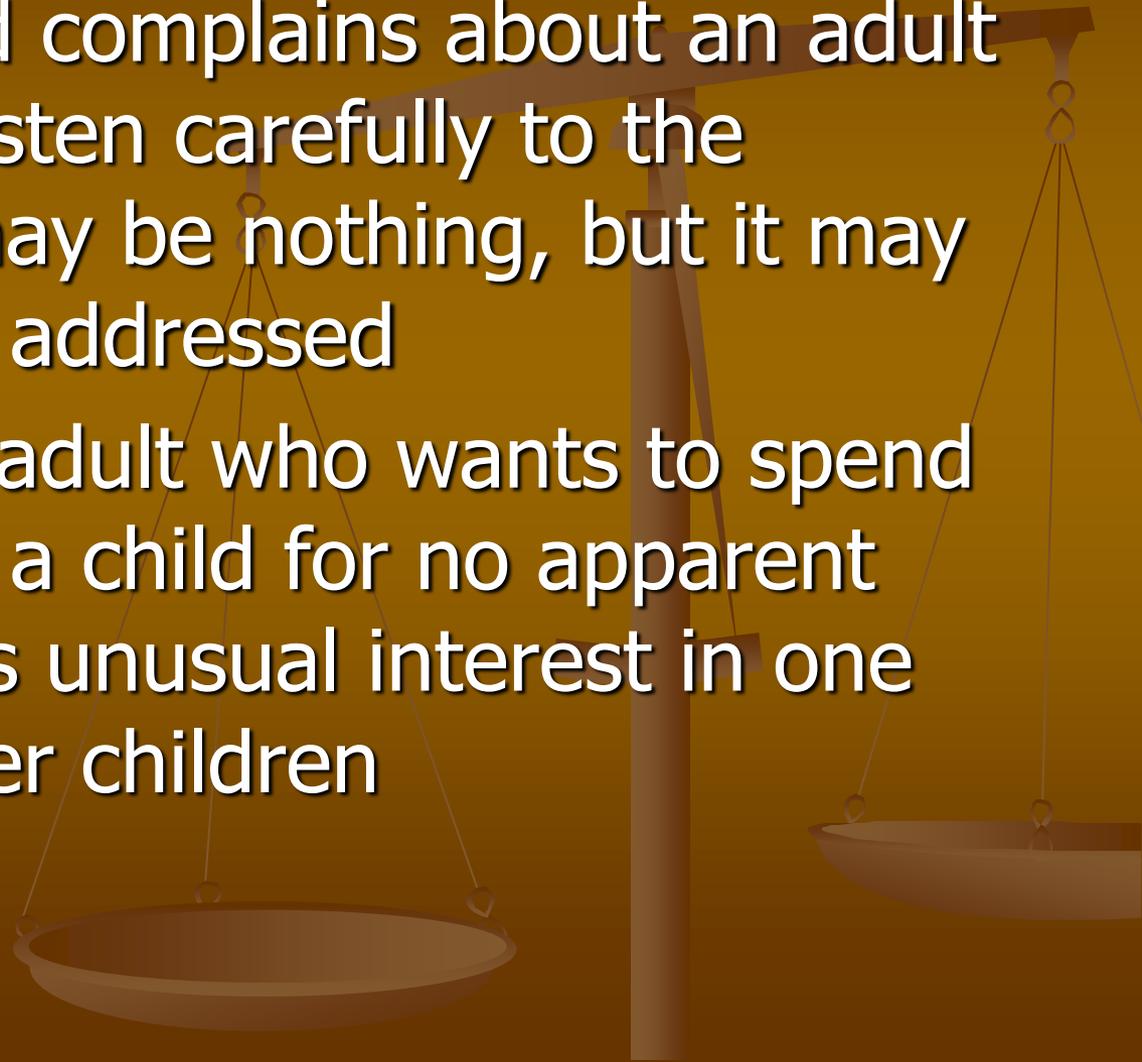
# Family Safety Rules

- Tell your children that no adult should ask a child for directions, ever
- They should never go looking for a lost puppy or kitten without mom or dad
- Let your children know if they answer the phone and someone talks to them funny, they can hang up the phone



# Lessening Chances of Victimization

- When your child complains about an adult or older child, listen carefully to the complaint. It may be nothing, but it may also need to be addressed
- Be wary of any adult who wants to spend time alone with a child for no apparent reason or shows unusual interest in one child above other children

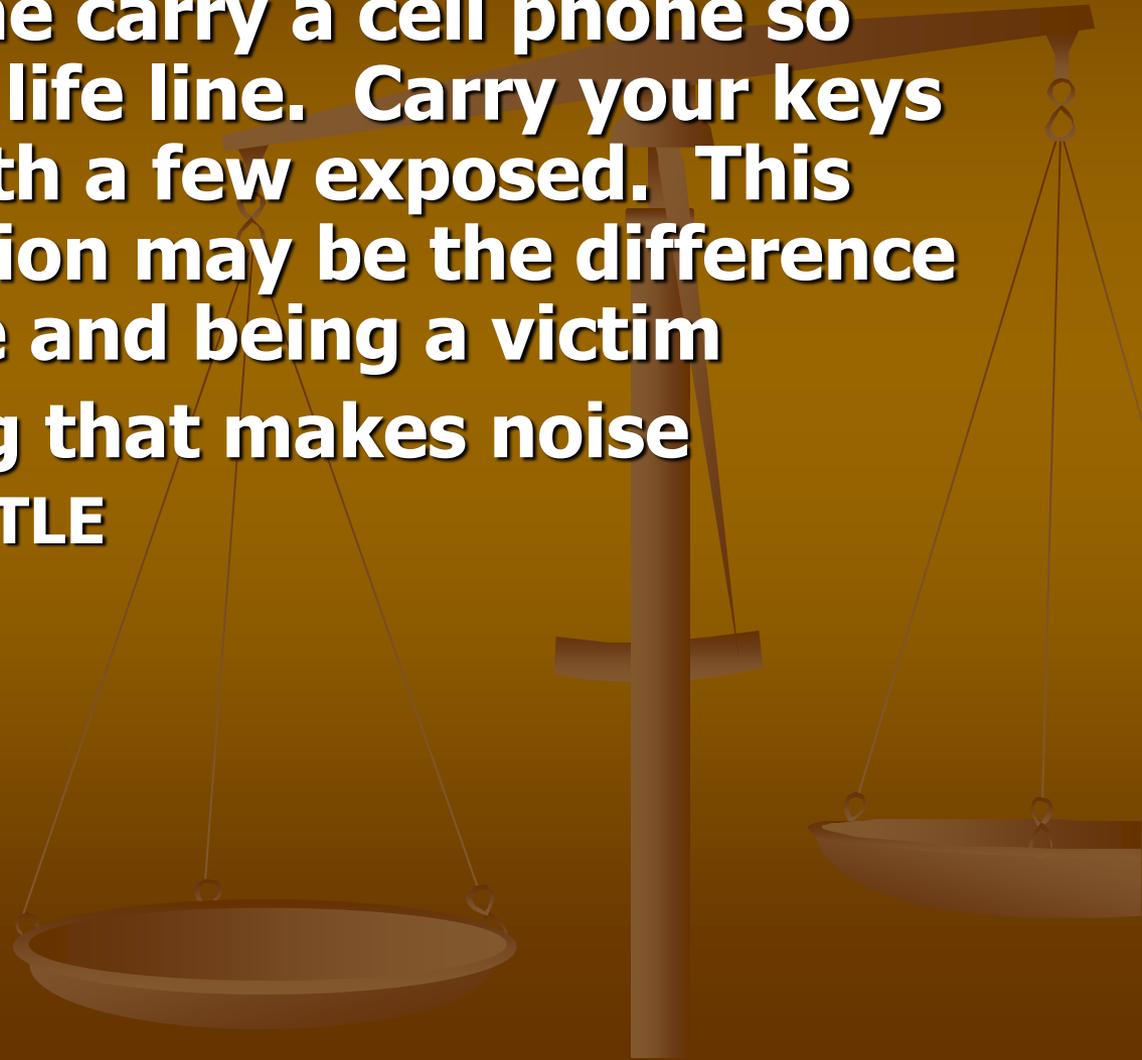


# ADULT SAFETY

- **Always look into your car before you get in no matter where you are parked.**
- **Always lock your car. Besides protecting you from someone who might harm you, it also protects you from vehicle prowls and vehicle theft.**
- **If you work late, leave work as a group, or at least get an escort**

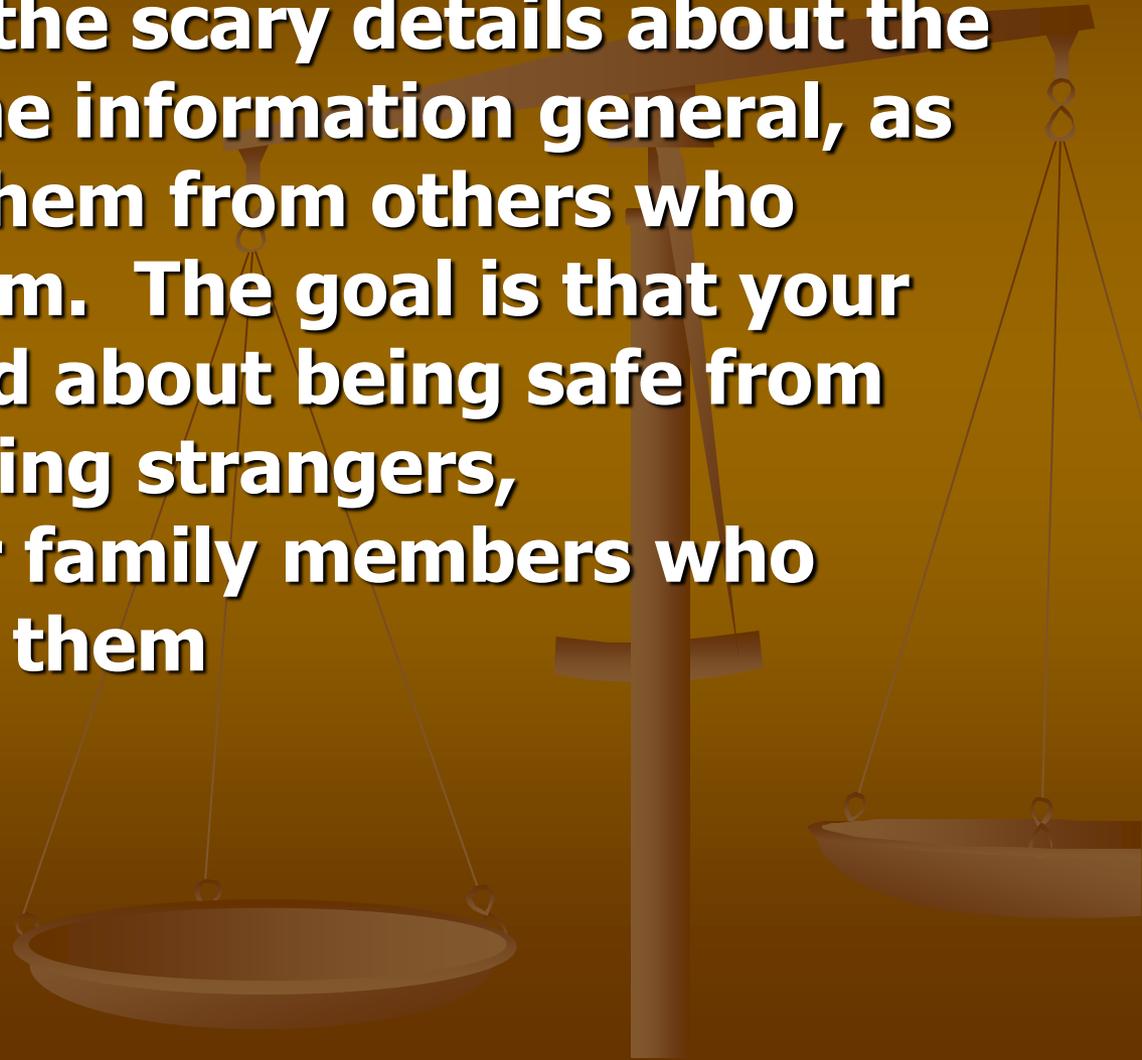
# ADULT SAFETY

- **If you walk alone carry a cell phone so that you have a life line. Carry your keys in your hand with a few exposed. This simple preparation may be the difference between escape and being a victim**
- **Carry something that makes noise**
  - **Example: WHISTLE**

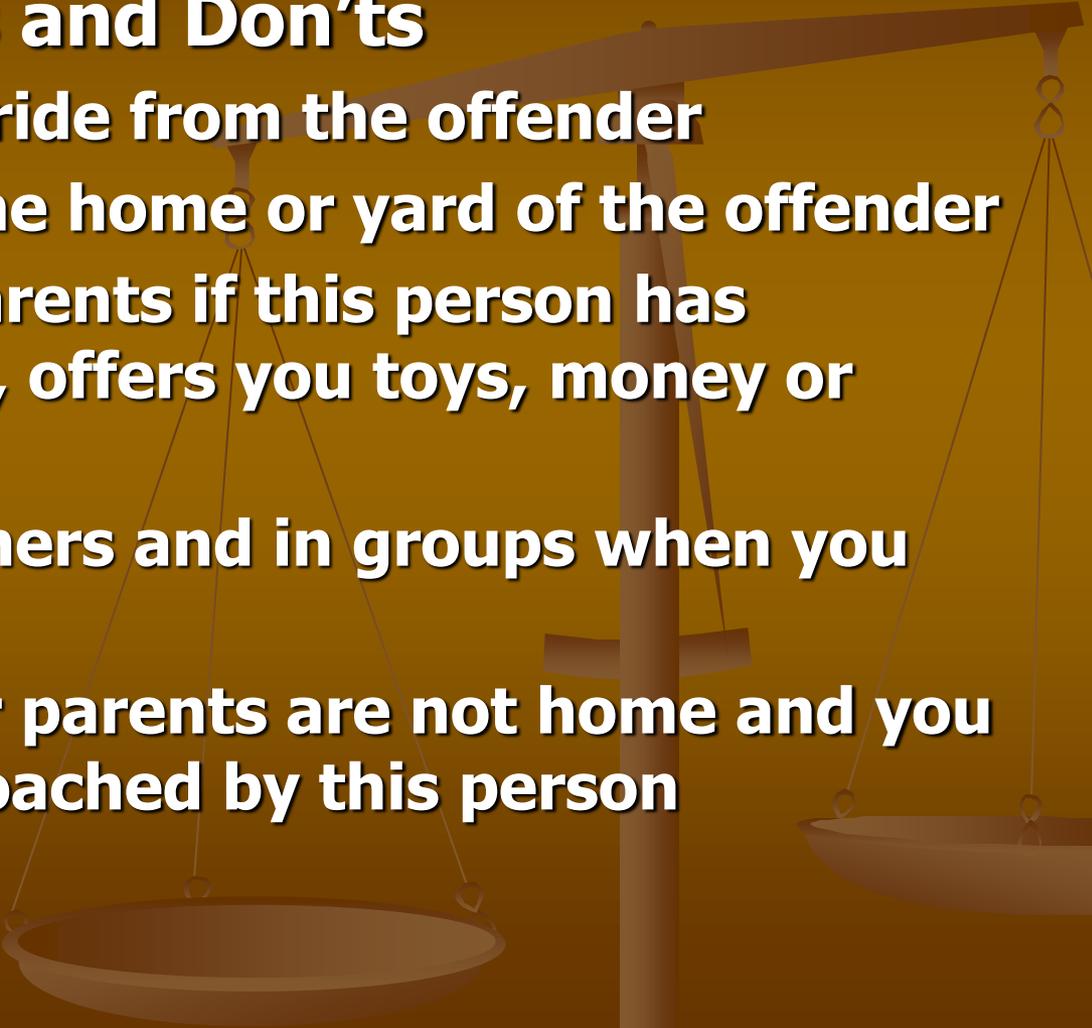


# WHAT DO I TELL MY CHILDREN?

- **Don't tell them the scary details about the crimes. Keep the information general, as it may protect them from others who would harm them. The goal is that your child is educated about being safe from everyone including strangers, acquaintances or family members who would victimize them**



# ABOUT THESE OFFENDERS?

- **Some basic Do's and Don'ts**
    - **DON'T accept a ride from the offender**
    - **DON'T go into the home or yard of the offender**
    - **DO TELL your parents if this person has approached you, offers you toys, money or gifts**
    - **DO play with others and in groups when you can**
    - **CALL 911 if your parents are not home and you have been approached by this person**
- 

# THANK YOU FOR VIEWING THIS PRESENTATION

**Please share what you have learned here with everyone you can**

**Keep in mind information like this is not meant to frighten or anger you**

**The purpose of this information is to empower you through learning the truth about sex offenders and how to keep your family safe, from not only these offenders, but safe from anyone who might victimize you and them**

