



FY2012 RECOMMENDATION/FY12-SO15 CHILD SAFETY ZONES IN LIEU OF RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS

Status: Partial Implementation

Actions/Updates

2023 UPDATE (JUNE)

During the FY 2023 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2023-158 to reauthorize the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) was postponed indefinitely on May 7, 2023. Therefore, with the sunset of the Commission, all activities of the CCJJ ceased on June 30, 2023.

No further monitoring of CCJJ recommendations will occur.

2013 UPDATE

Accomplishments related to this recommendation include:

- The SOMB staff has responded to various inquiries related to residence and zoning restrictions vs. child safety zones where sex offenders can live and how many sex offenders can live in one residence. Three jurisdictions have indicated interest in such ordinances and the SOMB staff has provided information and resources to assist with decision making.
- The SOMB staff has also fielded inquiries from other various stakeholders related to residence and zoning restrictions including members of the public, offenders, the media, human service agencies, and others.
- The SOMB has incorporated into community notification and public education trainings information related to residence and zoning restrictions vs. child safety zones.
- The SOMB continues to convene committees to address the issue of residence and zoning restrictions vs. child safety zones, and to educate stakeholders regarding this issue.
- In a legislative briefing submitted in January 2013, the SOMB recommended the Colorado legislature study the issue of residence and zoning restrictions vs. child safety zones via completion of a sex offender housing white paper.

Description

The Commission supports a statewide public policy and an education strategy led by the Sex Offender Management Board to promote the use of child safety zones in lieu of residency restrictions and zoning ordinances regarding sex offender housing.

Agencies Responsible

Discussion

Colorado municipalities and counties continue to implement sex offender housing restrictions and zoning ordinances which reduce options for housing that promotes public safety. These actions tend to result in a domino effect causing adjacent municipalities and counties to also implement restrictions to discourage the "re-settlement"

of displaced offenders. These restrictions result in negative consequences that impede better public safety options for managing sex offenders on probation and parole. Child safety zones define protected areas that sex offenders are prohibited from entering except in limited and safe circumstances. These zones are a more effective public safety option that is typically included among the conditions required of sex offenders who are under parole or probation supervision. The size and design of child safety zones should be carefully defined to prevent the zone from becoming a de facto residency restriction. The Commission will monitor the educational efforts and will consider legislative solutions on this matter at some point in the future after the 2012 legislative session.*

This recommendation is consistent with a resolution by the Sex Offender Management Board, passed September 19, 2011, that states:

“The Board does not support sex offender residency restrictions or zoning restrictions that are counter-productive to the effective supervision of sex offenders.”

Footnotes

**Child Safety Zone: Protected areas that sex offenders would be prohibited from entering except in limited and safe circumstances. Such areas might include schools and childcare facilities (Statement on Sex Offender Residency Restrictions in Iowa, Iowa County Attorneys Association; December 11, 2006).*