



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Governor Tony Evers / Secretary Jared Hoy

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Probation and parole agents, law enforcement work together to protect communities on Halloween

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) will work with local law enforcement agencies across the state this Halloween to monitor sex offenders on probation or parole. The annual partnership helps to keep children safe during trick-or-treat activities.

DOC Division of Community Corrections probation and parole agents will join local law enforcement to conduct random home visits on high-risk sex offenders during trick-or-treat hours. Individuals on the sex offender registry who are on probation or parole are prohibited from having Halloween decorations inside or outside of their homes. They also may not distribute candy, participate in other trick-or-treating activities, and must keep their porch lights off during trick-or-treating.

Any sex offenders in violation of the restrictions will be placed into custody.

“Trick-or-treating is a fun Halloween tradition, but it’s also a time to remind children of safe practices while walking their neighborhoods” said Grace Knutson, DOC’s director of Sex Offender Programs. “As a group, plan your route and stick to neighborhoods with well-lit streets. Younger children should always be accompanied by an adult, and older children should stay in a group. Cell phones are a great way to communicate and track the child’s location.

“It’s also a good idea to make sure everyone is wearing brightly color clothing, and adding glow sticks or flashlights can improve visibility. Be cautious when crossing the streets and never enter the homes of people or cars without their parents’ permission.”

Parents and guardians are encouraged to get to know their neighborhoods by accessing the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry website at wistaysafe.gov. Users can search by zip code or view offenders within a geographic radius.

Anyone who sees a potential violation in the community can call in the tip line at 1-877-234-0085. The DOC recommends that the public contact local law enforcement in emergency situations.