



For Immediate Release
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**MADIGAN, I-SORT PARTNERS IN WHITE AND WABASH
COUNTIES ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF SEX OFFENDER
COMPLIANCE CHECK**

Chicago – Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced that investigators from her office and their ISORT partners – Wabash County Sheriff Joseph Keeling’s office, the office of White County Sheriff Doug Maier, Carmi Police Chief Mike Thomas, Mt. Carmel Police Chief Tony Compton, the U.S. Marshal’s Service and the Illinois Department of Corrections – conducted sex offender compliance checks this morning to ensure that sex offenders are residing in the locations where they are registered and not evading detection by law enforcement officials.

I-SORT members conducted the early morning sweep to verify compliance with state registration laws by the 38 sex offenders currently registered as living in Wabash and White counties. Thirty four, or almost 90 percent, of these registered offenders are child sex offenders with victims under the age of 18.

“It is absolutely critical that we know the whereabouts of sex offenders registered in Illinois communities,” Madigan said. “Today we partnered with dedicated law enforcement agencies to verify that sex offenders in these southeastern Illinois counties are in compliance with the law.”

Madigan continued, “Today’s operation sends a strong message to sex offenders that law enforcement is watching and that if they fail to comply with the law, law enforcement will respond swiftly.”

“Even in smaller counties such as ours, keeping track of sex offenders is an important aspect of our job to help citizens feel more secure in their homes,” said White County Sheriff Doug Maier.

“The Mt. Carmel Police Department appreciates that Attorney General Madigan’s staff is there to assist us in monitoring registered offenders in our community,” said Police Chief Tony Compton of Mt. Carmel.

“We feel that sex offenders must comply with the sex offender act and be monitored to make sure that they are in compliance,” said Carmi Police Chief Mike Thomas.

The results of today’s operation are as follows:

Wabash County (13 total)

- **7 offenders determined to be in compliance**
- **2 offenders determined to be non-compliant**
- **4 notices left advising offenders to check in as soon as possible by calling the I-SORT Hotline**

White County (25 total)

- **18 offenders determined to be in compliance**
- **2 offenders determined to be non-compliant**
- **5 notices left advising offenders to check in as soon as possible by calling the I-SORT Hotline**

Madigan created I-SORT in December 2003 to combat non-compliance and other problems with the state sex offender registry. Since then, I-SORT has undertaken comprehensive and ongoing efforts to improve the registration process and solve problems with the system. In the past two years, I-SORT members have conducted targeted raids and used tips from the sex offender hotline to locate non-compliant offenders, worked to improve the accuracy of the information on the sex offender Web site, and launched a public awareness campaign to publicize the importance of the Web site as a tool to protect families.

The latest Illinois State Police statistics show compliance with Illinois' sex offender registration requirements is over 92 percent. Madigan said that when I-SORT was first created in December 2003, only 86 percent of Illinois' sex offenders were compliant with the registration requirements. Madigan noted that while I-SORT members are pleased with this increase in compliance, they are continuing their extensive and aggressive efforts to improve the accuracy and usefulness of the information on the registry.

The Illinois Sex Offender Registry can be accessed www.isp.state.il.us and the Attorney General's I-SORT Hotline is 1-888-41-ISORT.

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