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MADIGAN, I-SORT PARTNERS ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF SEX OFFENDER COMPLIANCE CHECK IN KANKAKEE

Chicago - Attorney General Lisa Madigan today said that investigators from her office and partners from the Illinois Sex Offender Registry Team (I-SORT) conducted a compliance check this morning in Kankakee to ensure that sex offenders are living at the locations where they are registered and not evading detection by law enforcement officials.

The Kankakee County Sheriff's Department, Kankakee Police and the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force joined Madigan's investigators in targeting 89 individuals to verify their compliance with Illinois sex offender registration laws. Seventy-three of the offenders confirmed their compliance during face-to-face checks, 10 offenders were determined to be non-compliant and I-SORT notices were left for another six offenders instructing them to call the I-SORT hotline or face enforcement action.

"It is critical that law enforcement knows the whereabouts of sex offenders registered in Illinois communities," Madigan said. "As part of our ongoing community protection work, we partner with law enforcement agencies to verify that sex offenders in our towns and cities are in compliance with the law."

"We appreciate Attorney General Madigan's assistance in these compliance checks," said Kankakee Police Chief Michael Kinkade. "Periodic compliance checks are important for the safety of area residents and important for sex offenders to know that the law is being strictly enforced."

"The Sheriff's Department thanks Attorney General Madigan and her staff for the extra effort they make to assist local officers to enforce the laws regarding sex offenders present in our communities. This enhanced enforcement helps to make our homes safer," said Kankakee County Sheriff Tim Bukowski.

"We are honored to be part of Attorney General Lisa Madigan's I-SORT team and stand ready to continue working with her office to keep track of the sex offenders who live in our communities," said Commander Geoff Shank of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force in Chicago.

Madigan created I-SORT in December 2003 to combat non-compliance and other problems with the state's sex offender registry. Since then, I-SORT has undertaken comprehensive and ongoing efforts to improve the registration process and solve problems with the system. 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 that compliance with Illinois' sex offender registration requirements is more than 92 percent. Madigan said that when I-SORT was formed in 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 at www.isp.state.il.us and the Attorney General's I-SORT Hotline is 1-888-41-ISORT.

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