



Operation Boo 2016

A Parent's Guide

Welcome Parents and Guardians!

Thanks for joining the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) Parent Patrol by taking part in this educational exercise to help us keep your kids safe. Together, we'll teach California's children how to spot and avoid potential sexual predators - not just on Halloween, but all the time.

CDCR's Division of Adult Parole Operations wants you and your children to have a safe and fun Halloween. On Halloween night, we'll be out in force statewide for Operation Boo 2016. It's the 23rd year that we've been imposing special conditions of parole on known sex offenders supervised by CDCR. The conditions include:

- Setting special curfew hours when sex offenders aren't allowed to have their porch lights on, and can't have Halloween decorations on their home, offer trick-or-treat candy, or answer the door.
- Ordering transient sex-offenders to report to selected centers where they will be watched carefully during safe trick-or-treating hours of 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Performing compliance checks on sex offenders. CDCR's Parole and GPS enforcement agents will do this in conjunction with local law enforcement partners all across the state.

We'll be keeping a watchful eye so you can be out having fun with your kids. Parents need to know that only a small percentage* of all sex offenders in California are under supervision by CDCR. Awareness can go a long way in helping keep children safe.

*There are almost 114,000 sex-offenders statewide in California; CDCR is responsible for supervising active parolees, which number around 5,860. That's about 4% of the total sex-offender population in the state.

Easy, Step-by-Step Process to Help Increase Your Child's Safety

A few days before Halloween:

1. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with information about the latest methods for helping young children detect potentially dangerous adult behavior. It's important to note that most sexual crimes against children are not committed by strangers. In fact, the California Department of Justice's Megan's Law website says that 90% of child victims know their offender, with almost half of the offenders being a family member. Of sexual assaults against people ages 12 and up, approximately 80% of the victims know the offender. Below is a list of several website locations that have tips on how to talk to your children about dangerous behaviors by any adult, not just strangers. The tips were compiled by various government agencies and advocacy groups, and their experts. Please familiarize yourself with them by clicking below:

California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General

- **How to protect your family:**
<http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/protect.aspx>

Polly Klaas Foundation

- **What to teach your kids:** "Dangerous Adult Behaviors"
<http://www.pollyklaas.org/safe/talk-to-strangers.html>
- **Sex Offenders:** "What should you tell your children?"
<http://www.pollyklaas.org/safe/sexoffender3-1.html>

Stop it Now! (Survivors of Sexual Abuse)

- **Prevention Tip Sheets:** "Talking to Children and Teens"
http://www.stopitnow.org/talking_to_kids

Once you pick the tips that you feel comfortable sharing with your family, please take a few minutes to go over the information with them. If you'd like, you can do it while the children color the special printout on the next page - the "Operation Boo Parent Patrol

Badge.” This fun exercise will give you a non-threatening opportunity to talk to your kids about spotting dangerous adult behaviors.

FAMILY COLORING ACTIVITY
Operation Boo
Parent Patrol Badge



2. Once colored, cut out the Parent Patrol Badge (above) and attach it to your corkboard or fridge as a reminder to the kids to follow your safety tips.

At least a day before trick-or-treating:

3. Please visit the Megan's Law website. It has a link to the California Megan's Law Sex Offender Locator and is available in several languages:
<http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/index.aspx?lang=ENGLISH>. (For languages other than English, please use the language selector.)
4. Once on the Megan's Law website, follow the instructions to check the area in which you'll be trick-or-treating, so you can spot the homes of known sex offenders. If you'd like, map it out for yourself.
5. Familiarize yourself with the special Operation Boo conditions of parole for sex offenders in California. The Special Conditions of Parole for sex-offenders on Halloween night are:
 - A curfew of 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. during which sex-offender parolees must remain indoors;
 - All exterior lights of their homes must be turned off so that it looks as if no one is home, which discourages children from approaching;
 - No offering of Halloween candy and no Halloween decorations are allowed;
 - During the curfew, sex-offender parolees can only open the door to respond to law enforcement, such as parole agents who are patrolling their caseload to ensure compliance.



On Halloween Night:

6. Don't forget to wear your parent patrol badge to let everyone know you're a part of the growing army of parents fighting back against sexual predators. Wearing the badge will also help make other parents aware of this project and send a message to sex offenders that they're being watched by conscientious parents like you.
7. Please do not attempt to take any enforcement action yourself. If you see a suspected sex-offender (someone living in a home on the sex-offender locator) breaking the special conditions of parole on Halloween night, call your local law enforcement by dialing 911.



8. Have a fun trick-or-treat experience by knowing you've taken precautions to keep your children safe from sexual predators, not just on Halloween, but all the time. We've chosen Halloween as a good time to make parents and kids aware of sexual predators. Instances of sexual abuse have not been prevalent on Halloween night in California during the two decades since Operation Boo has been operating. Now you're a part of the Operation Boo Parent Patrol helping shine an even brighter light on sexual predators.

Thanks for joining the CDCR Parent Patrol!