

Press Release:



*Perry Illinois Sheriff's Office announces their startup of the most innovative and collaborative national sex offender program, **OffenderWatch**®.*

Perry County Sheriff Keith Kellerman announce they are the newest Illinois County area law enforcement agency to implement **OffenderWatch**® to manage registered sex offenders in the Perry community and make effective community notifications.

OffenderWatch® enables Illinois law enforcement agencies to collaborate and share information with law enforcement partners statewide, to include Sheriff's Offices, Police Departments, and others. This information sharing provides all law enforcement agencies all the information concerning sex offender movements, history and activities anywhere in the county, state or country. Soon, all agencies in the state are expected to be on-line.

OffenderWatch® is supplied and supported by Watch Systems, LLC and is currently in use by more than 1,000 leadership jurisdictions in 30 states to register, track and disseminate community information regarding sex offenders. Nearly half the registered sex offenders in the US are in **OffenderWatch**® databases, available for searching or importing.

The **OffenderWatch**® program implements an innovative electronic registration and inter-agency pre-registration and alerting system designed especially for Illinois processes – when an offender is registered with the Sheriff's Office or a Police Department, that information is immediately and electronically made available to the managing agency where the offender lives, such as the Perry Sheriff's Office– this can save agencies several weeks previously spent waiting on paper forms. Then, Perry detectives will contact and interview the offender, verify their address, collect additional data, arrange the community notification, and verify the address does not violate a safety buffer. All data collected about the offender is now housed in an electronic, internet accessible form, so any law enforcement officer who needs the information about the offender, or has information to share, can access the record. Also, all data collected on the offender follows with him as he moves from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, enabling much more effective supervision by law enforcement.

The Perry Sheriff's Office is also now making available on their web site, a citizen-friendly, very easy to use, sex offender registry, enabling citizens to search for the presence of registered sex offenders in proximity to their homes, place of work, schools

and day cares. **OffenderWatch**® also provides the Community Notifications that go to all citizens in close proximity to offender addresses, as required by Illinois law. All partner agency databases are linked together, enabling seamless display of offenders from any jurisdiction in the county or region.

The **OffenderWatch**® database enables **citizens anywhere in Perry County**, plus **OffenderWatch**® participating neighboring jurisdictions, to see maps and get email notifications concerning offenders near any address important to them. Citizens may enter any address of interest to them, and see a map and listing of offenders within their preferred radius of that address. Then, they may confidentially register the address to be continuously monitored by the agency, which will send to them an email alerting them if an offender or predator should register an address within their preferred radius of their registered address. Usually, citizens will register their homes, work addresses, parks, playgrounds, bus stops or other addresses of interest to them.

Citizens may also confidentially register to be notified if a specific offender, who they wish to track, moves from his present address. Citizens may register as many addresses as they like, at no cost to them.

Citizens may access the Perry Sheriff's Office **OffenderWatch**® Community Web Page 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week at the Perry Sheriff's Office's web site at <http://perrycountysheriffsoffice.com> various other web sites that will link to the Perry Sheriff's Office **OffenderWatch**® Community Web Page.