



# Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

Anthony J. Annucci, Acting Commissioner

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## OPERATION HALLOWEEN TARGETS PAROLED SEX OFFENDERS

*Restrictions and monitoring protect the public*

ALBANY— For the ninth consecutive year, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision will impose special conditions and closely monitor supervised sex offenders to ensure the safety of children on Halloween.

“Community Supervision staff work hard and diligently everyday to ensure safety in our communities and Halloween is no exception. My goal during this initiative is to make sure our streets are free of sex offenders and New York families have a safe trick-or-treating experience,” DOCCS Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci said.

The agency supervises 2,302 sex offenders on parole statewide. As part of the Operation Halloween, the Department has imposed the following special conditions on sex offenders:

- Beginning in the early afternoon on Halloween, or immediately following the end of their work day or completion of an approved community program, all sex offender parolees are to remain in their residence until 6 a.m. the following morning.
- Parolees cannot open their doors, distribute candy or partake in the act of “trick-or-treating.”
- Parolees cannot wear any costume, mask or other disguises.

In addition, county Probation Departments, which monitor approximately 5,000 sex offenders under probation supervision, also may have programs in place to monitor those offenders on Halloween. Those initiatives can vary from county to county, as Probation Departments are locally administered. For example, in New York City, the city's Probation Department has teams doing home visits and curfew checks in the five boroughs, and in Monroe County, the Probation Department has ordered offenders under supervision in that county not to decorate their homes, turn off exterior lights, not answer their doors or give out candy.

The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) maintains the state’s Sex Offender Registry and a Registry subdirectory on their agency’s website (<http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov>) that by law provides information about Level 2 (medium risk of re-offense) and Level 3 (high risk of re-offense) sex offenders to the public.

By law, the state can only provide information about Level 1 (low risk of re-offense) offenders or those with a pending risk level through a toll-free number (1-800-262-3257); callers must have an individual’s name and at least one other identifier (an exact address, date of birth, driver's license number or Social Security number).

New Yorkers also can register to receive alerts whenever a Level 2 or 3 offender moves into – or from – their neighborhood or another community of interest to them. Sex offender relocation notices are sent via the state’s NY-ALERT system; visit [www.nyalert.gov](http://www.nyalert.gov) and click on the “Sign up for NY-Alerts” link in the left menu to learn more and register.

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