



Florida Action Committee, Inc.
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January 27, 2018

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)
Missing Persons and Offender Registration
2331 Phillips Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

SENT VIA EMAIL
sexpred@fdle.state.fl.us

**RE: SCAMS TARGETING REGISTERED SEXUAL
OFFENDERS AND PREDATORS**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Florida Action Committee is a not-for-profit public safety advocacy group. Among other things, we advocate for changes to counter-productive components of our State's sex offender registry.

The public registry, along with the personal information openly disclosed and available to anyone, has exposed registrants to harm.

They are extremely susceptible to physical damage to their property or themselves from vigilantes. They are also extremely susceptible to financial harm from scammers, who utilize the registry information to prey on vulnerable individuals who fear that a single technical misstep can land them in prison for years.

The former concern is one that we've been aware of since the inception of the public list. Registrants are being vandalized, beaten and even killed – simply because of their presence on the list.

The latter concern is relatively new but growing in prevalence. Businesses create private lists using data taken from the FDLE and extorting registrants for "removal fees" under the threat of broadcasting the information to neighbors. Others use the registry as a marketing list to promote "de-registration" scams, where they charge a "consultation fee" under the guise of potentially getting someone off the registry.

Most recently, registrants have been receiving telephone calls from “detectives”, informing them they missed registering some information, but if they immediately pay a fee (which is usually paid through a stored value card and in the amount of \$500 to \$1500), they can avoid arrest.

We are doing our best to warn FAC members of this latest scam through email, but our membership is comprised of only one percent of the registry, many of which do not have internet access. If a significant number of people in our network have been victimized, we imagine that thousands of the 70,000 on Florida’s list have been victimized too.

Our prior efforts to solicit the cooperation of State Officials in preventing these scams have proven unsuccessful. On October 17, 2017 we sent a letter to the Office of the Attorney General concerning one “de-registration” scam and we did not even receive a reply.

We recognize that our population is disfavored, and law enforcement generally turns a blind eye when a registrant is victimized. In this case, however, because the scammers are potentially impersonating law enforcement we hope that your agency will take this complaint seriously.

Whether it is, in fact, law enforcement officers extorting fees from registrants or private individuals using information obtained from the FDLE registry to impersonate them, our objective is to warn the individuals on the sex offender registry, so they are not victimized. We would also love to see that those committing these crimes are brought to justice.

In connection therewith, we request the FDLE mail a notice to all registrants warning them of this scam. We also request confirmation that this letter was received and that an investigation into our complaint will be initiated.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

s/

Gail Colletta, President

The Florida Action Committee, Inc.

gail@floridaactioncommittee.org