



Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

[Website](#) | [Contact Me](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

## Protecting Our Children

### *Registering All Missouri Sex Offenders*

In 1994, seven-year-old Megan Kanka was kidnapped from her home, sexually assaulted, and murdered in New Jersey. The man who committed the crime had two prior convictions for sexual offenses, and was living across the street from Megan's family. The family was unaware of the neighbor's past criminal history, and pushed to save other families from the pain that they experienced. Out of this tragedy came legislation named in honor of the victim designed to protect our children throughout the country; forms of Megan's Law exists in all 50 states, with Missouri's version going into effect in 1995.



Missouri's sexual offender registry is open to the public and available through the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Our state offers a toll free number for sex offender information at 1-888-SOR-MSHP (1-888-767-6747) or you can visit the site online at

<http://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov> (a link to the sexual offender registry is at the menu on the top of the page). The site provides name, alias names, date of birth, alias dates of birth, physical description, addresses, offense, vehicle information, picture, and offense dates for registered sex offenders.

The registry is a vital tool for families in Missouri, but it could be expanded to include more potentially dangerous individuals. In 2006, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled that it is unconstitutional to force sex offenders to register if they were convicted before the enactment of Megan's Law, due to conflicting language in the Missouri Constitution. Regardless of when sex offenders are convicted, the community should be aware of where they are.

According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, there are 4,477 sex offenders currently living in Missouri who are exempt from registering as a sex offender. The breakdown of the number of sex offenders living in the six counties within the 27<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District who are not currently registered is as follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Sex Offenders</u>
Bollinger	10
Cape Girardeau	55
Madison	16
Mississippi	18
Perry	10
Scott	39

I am proposing to give Missouri voters the chance to amend the constitution so that our state is not a safe harbor for sex offenders convicted before 1995. [Senate Joint Resolution 3](#) would give voters the power to uphold

the original intent of Megan's Law, requiring that all convicted sex offenders (regardless of when they were convicted) register with the chief local law enforcement officer of their home county.

The Missouri Constitution is one of only five in the nation that includes wording that essentially protects pre-1995 convicted sex offenders. I know that Missourians don't want to allow sexual predators to seek refuge in the Show-Me State. Our children deserve that protection and I am working to pass a constitutional amendment this session that will allow Missourians to let their voices be heard on this issue.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

#### **Contact Information**

**Capitol Office**  
State Capitol Building  
Room 323  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Website:**  
<http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>

**Phone Number:**  
573.751.2459  
**Fax:**  
573.522.9289