



# The Adam Walsh Act

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (AWA) was signed into law on July 27<sup>th</sup> of 2006 by President Bush. Even though all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and some U. S. territories and Indian tribes have created sex offender registries since the signing of AWA, there still has been a lack of uniformity across the nation. AWA is an effort to ensure uniformity and strengthening of the sex offender registration system. Title 1 of the Act is the establishment of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA).

The Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking (SMART) Office was formed to help jurisdictions come into compliance with the implementation of SORNA.

While the guidelines were slow in coming, and final supplemental guidelines were just signed January of 2011, by United States Attorney General Eric Holder. These final guidelines did address most of the states issues and concerns and changes were made to ensure that jurisdictions would be able to come into compliance and implementation of SORNA.

States and territories (and the District of Columbia) that didn't substantially implement SORNA by the (second) extended deadline date of July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, will face a 10% annual reduction in Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Funds/ JAG for each year that they do not implement SORNA. The JAG Program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The JAG Program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and court, prevention and education, corrections and community correction, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives.

For more detailed information please go to this link:

[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/smart/pdfs/SORNAFinalSuppGuidelines01\\_11\\_11.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/smart/pdfs/SORNAFinalSuppGuidelines01_11_11.pdf)

The Surviving Parents Coalition

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The Surviving Parents Coalition are parents of children who were abducted, sexually assaulted, murdered or are still missing. We advocate for education and legislation that will aid in the prevention of crimes against children and young people.