




Florida Department of
Law Enforcement

Gerald M. Bailey
Commissioner

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June 12, 2009

Mr. Gerald M. Bailey
Commissioner
2331 Phillips Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Dear Commissioner Bailey:

Section 20.055 (5)(h), Florida Statutes, requires the Inspector General to monitor the implementation of the agency's response to any report on the agency issued by the Auditor General or OPPAGA. Below are the status updates of corrective actions taken for the preliminary findings and recommendations from:

**Sex Offender Registration and Public Notification Improved;
Some Aspects of the Process Could Be Streamlined**

OPPAGA Recommendation

- ◆ **Limit address verification mailing to those local law enforcement agencies that request it to eliminate duplication and reduce costs in this process.**

FDLE response: Disagree. The costs of implementing, administering and adapting the registry system to account for this type of flexibility would surpass any potential savings. As an alternative, FDLE will initiate an updated protocol with local law enforcement wherein FDLE will continue to conduct quarterly mail-outs to all appropriate registrants and follow-up may be at the local agency's discretion. This will allow for increased flexibility at the local level with no increase in costs at the state level.

Six-month Response:

- ❖ FDLE continues to send the Address Verification mail outs to all registrants that are due for a mail out according to the established schedule.
- ❖ After sending notice of the change in process to all local law enforcement agencies, FDLE no longer sends *hard* copy follow-up results of Address Verification mail outs to local law enforcement agencies.
- ❖ E-mail notifications that the results of each Address Verification are posted and available are sent directly to local law enforcement agency contacts to follow-up as needed per local protocols.

- ❖ Cost savings are created through eliminating the follow-up mail out, associated postage charges and the man-hours needed to produce the mail out.
 - ❖ The adjusted notification process appears to have increased awareness, efficiency and follow-up at the local level.
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OPPAGA Recommendations

- ◆ **Add Department of Corrections' probation contact data to the sex offender registry to assist local law enforcement address verification efforts**
- ◆ **Add a status of homeless to the sex offender registry in order to keep an accurate count of homeless sex offenders for policy and information purposes.**
- ◆ **Direct local law enforcement agencies to require homeless sex offenders to list specific descriptions of the place(s) where they habitually stay and not list their addresses as "transient" in the sex offender registry to better monitor homeless sex offenders and comply with federal requirements.**

FDLE response: Disagree. Funds are not available to implement these recommendations. Each of the recommendations is feasible and may carry some benefit. However, all are dependent upon adaptations to FDLE systems and, in most cases, will also require system adaptations for DOC, DJJ and DHSMV. The costs of the system changes, together with the lack of current funding to adequately maintain the registry system, render planning and implementation virtually impossible.

Six-month Response:

- ❖ Utilizing the existing registry system data fields, law enforcement is requested and trained to enter in detailed information regarding the general and regular location(s) of a transient registrant whenever possible. Similarly a registrant who reports that he/she has no permanent or temporary address is marked as "Transient" within the registry database.

I am available to discuss any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,



Al Dennis
Inspector General

ALD/dkk

cc: Ms. Kathy Dubose, Joint Legislative Auditing Committee