



Termination of Duty to Comply with Sexual Offense Registration (SORN) Laws ([R.C. 2950.151](#))

Section 2950.151 allows a person convicted of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor to petition the court for modification or termination of the duty to register if he or she meets the following criteria. The petition is framed as a request for the court to review the effectiveness of the offender's participation in community control sanctions and to determine whether to modify or terminate the offender's duty to register. The petition requires the following:

- Petition to terminate the Petitioner/ eligible offenders' duty to comply with the requirements of SORN
Petition should provide compelling evidence that the Petitioner/ eligible offender has been rehabilitated, and is no longer a threat to society. (See Section 2950.151(C) to determine the appropriate court to file).
- Evidence of Eligibility – See Section 2950.151(A)(1) or (2)
 - Record of proceedings showing Petitioner/ eligible offender was 18, 19 or 20 at the time of the offense, the minor was 14 or 15 and consented to the conduct, and the Petitioner/ eligible offender was not in a position of authority over the minor;
 - Record of proceeding showing there was no force, threat of force or coercion;
 - Evidence of a low ORAS score at sentencing, or any other evidence demonstrating that Petitioner/ eligible offender was low risk at the time of sentencing;
 - Evidence of a sentence of community control sanctions or combination of community control sanctions instead of a prison term;
 - Evidence that Petitioner/ eligible offender has fulfilled every condition of every community control sanction imposed by the sentencing court; and
 - Evidence that Petitioner/ eligible offender has not otherwise been convicted of or pleaded guilty to another violation of section 2907.04 of the Revised Code or any sexually oriented offense or child-victim oriented offense other than the offense of conviction.
- Other Requirements – See Section 2950.151(D):
 - A certified copy of the judgment entry and any other documentation of the sentence given for the offense for which the eligible offender was convicted or pleaded guilty;
 - Documentation of the date of discharge from probation supervision or other supervision, if applicable;
 - Evidence that the eligible offender has completed a sex offender treatment program certified by the department of rehabilitation and correction pursuant to section 2950.16 of the Revised Code;
 - Evidence that the eligible offender has been rehabilitated to a satisfactory degree by successful completion of community control sanctions.

In addition to the specified requirements, the court can consider many other factors in deciding whether to grant the petition for termination, including factors unrelated to the offense and the duty to register. The Petition should include as much evidence of “good behavior” as possible; the approach should be the same as a pre-sentence investigation.

The following are not required, but are strongly recommended (from division (G) of [Section 2950.15](#) of the Revised Code):

- Evidence of payment of all court costs and financial sanctions;
- Actual evidence, if possible; if not, an affidavit at the very least, evidencing the following:
 - Proof that driver’s license, CDL, or other driving privileges have NOT been suspended;
 - Proof of financial responsibility for a motor vehicle;
 - Payment of child or spousal support, if any;
 - Payment of state, local, if applicable, and federal taxes, and timely filing of income tax returns;
 - Evidence that Petitioner/ eligible offender has addressed sexual offending behavior, and been rehabilitated;
 - Proof that Petitioner/ eligible offender has maintained a residence; if not, an explanation of the circumstances should be included;
 - If renting, a letter of reference from the landlord;
 - Employment status, including an explanation of why Petitioner/ eligible offender is unemployed, if applicable;
 - Evidence that Petitioner/ eligible offender has addressed any issues with drug or alcohol offending, if any;
- Evidence of Rehabilitation
 - Risk assessment by a qualified forensic psychologist or other qualified individual to show evidence of rehabilitation
 - Beyond evidence that PO authorized early release, try to get a letter of reference from PO;
 - Same evidence from sex offender treatment program;
 - Letter from employers
 - Letter from volunteer organizations
 - Letters from school
 - Letter from landlord

Letters of reference:

Letters should be addressed to the judge, but can be delivered by defense counsel. If possible, letters should acknowledge that the Petitioner/ eligible offender is a registered sex offender, but that the writer still trusts him/ her and does not view him/ her as a danger.

- Letters from neighbors, especially neighbors with young children, if the Petitioner/ eligible offender was convicted of a crime involving a minor;
- Letters from employers describing the circumstances of employment;
- Letters from a priest or minister;
- Letters from supervisors indicating volunteer service to the community;
- Letters from military supervisor, if applicable;
- Letters from family;
- Letters from school (the Petitioner/ eligible offender's or child's):
- Letters from team members and parents, if Petitioner/ eligible offender coaches children, or from teammates if Petitioner/ eligible offender plays sports;
- Letters from club members, if Petitioner/ eligible offender belongs to any clubs or organization;
- Letters from anyone else who knows Petitioner/ eligible offender, and is willing to say he/ she made a mistake, but shouldn't be punished for five more years.