

2015 Changes to Sex Offender Registry Law

Public Chapter 284 adds Sexual Contact with Inmates under TCA 39-16-408 to the definition of Sexual Offenses; allows offenders registered for this conviction to apply for termination after three years. Took effect on 07/01/2015.

Public Chapter 316 clarifies that in order to qualify as a Violent Juvenile Sexual Offender the offender must have been at least 14 but less than 18 years old when the offense was committed. Took effect on 04/28/2015.

Public Chapter 469 allows offenders who are registered for Aggravated Prostitution to petition the sentencing court for termination of registration requirements based on the offender's status as a victim of human trafficking, a sexual offense or domestic abuse. If the court grants the petition the offender shall be removed from the sex offender registry. Took effect on 07/01/2015.

Public Chapter 516 makes it unlawful for registered Sexual Offenders and Violent Sexual Offenders to be "alone with" a minor or minors in a "private area" as those terms are defined in the chapter; makes some exceptions for offenders who are parents of minors. Also clarifies that registering agencies can send registration information and updates to TBI by electronic means rather than by mail. Also adds "any social media accounts" to required registration information. Took effect on 07/01/2015.