

## **Juvenile Sex Offender Registration**

### **POLICY**

The Minnesota Second Chance Coalition advocates for juvenile sex offense predatory offender registration law that maximizes opportunities for personal and social growth for youth while still adequately protecting public safety.

### **BACKGROUND**

The priority of juvenile courts is to protect juveniles from adult sanctions and long-term stigmatization. Currently, the law requires predatory offender registration for juvenile sex offenders that do not rise to the level of risk that warrants registration. Often, the basis for predatory offender registration of juvenile sex offenders lies in the assumption that these offenders will persist with future sexual offending. However, research has shown juvenile sex offenders to have very low recidivism rates and studies have shown that an overwhelming majority of adult sex offenses are committed by those who were not known to be juvenile sex offenders .

Current law compromises the juvenile court's goal, unnecessarily impeding the rehabilitation of youth, ignoring the potential harm that may occur with registration of these juvenile offenders, and hindering their reintegration into the community. Additionally, placing these juveniles in the predatory offender registration system unnecessarily puts additional strain on an already over-burdened vital public safety system.

### **RECOMMENDED STRATEGY ITEMS**

- Amend Minnesota statutes to maximize public safety while protecting juveniles from lifetime stigmatization of registration unless deemed necessary by the courts for public safety.
- Amend Minnesota registration statutes to remove the expectation of registration for offenses occurring between offenders and victims of similar ages when both are juveniles.
- Provide a process for currently registered offenders who were registered as a result of some juvenile offenses to petition to be taken off of the registry.
- Amend criminal sexual conduct statutes to make consensual sex between a 13-15 yr old and someone between 24 and 48 months older criminal sexual conduct in the 5<sup>th</sup> rather than 3<sup>rd</sup> degree.