



August 2017

SORNA Substantial Implementation Review Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida - Updated

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) would like to thank the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (Miccosukee Tribe) for the extensive work that has gone into its effort to substantially implement Title I of the Adam Walsh Act, the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). The SMART Office has completed its updated review of the Miccosukee Tribe's SORNA substantial implementation packet and has found that the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida has substantially implemented SORNA.

The SMART Office previously found that the Miccosukee Tribe had substantially implemented SORNA on August 31, 2011. However, because the Miccosukee Tribe failed to maintain its public sex offender registry website and maintain contact with the SMART Office, in February 2014, the SMART Office notified the Miccosukee Tribe that it was no longer substantially implementing SORNA. Since that time, the Miccosukee Tribe worked to address these shortcomings and on July 27, 2016, the Miccosukee Tribe submitted to the SMART Office a new SORNA substantial implementation packet for review. The packet included background information on the tribe and its criminal justice system, courts, and police department, policies and procedures regarding sex offender registration, the tribe's sex offender registration and notification law, as well as forms and memoranda of agreement with other law enforcement agencies. In addition, in-person, email and phone correspondence with the Miccosukee Tribe filled in information gaps about procedures, which informed our review.

Our review of these materials follows the outline of the SMART Office Substantial Implementation Checklist-Revised, which contains 14 relevant sections addressing the SORNA requirements. Under each section, we indicate that the Miccosukee Tribe meets the SORNA requirements of that section.

I. Immediate Transfer of Information

SORNA requires that when an offender initially registers and/or updates his or her information in a jurisdiction, that the initial registration information or updated information be immediately sent to other jurisdictions where the offender has to register, as well as to the National Crime Information Center National Sex Offender Registry (NCIC/NSOR) and the jurisdiction's public sex offender registry website.

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

II. Offenses That Must Be Included in the Registry

SORNA requires that certain federal, military and foreign offenses are included in a jurisdiction's registration scheme. In addition, SORNA requires that the jurisdiction capture certain sex offenses, both offenses from its jurisdiction and from other SORNA registration jurisdictions, in its registration scheme. SORNA also requires that certain adjudications of delinquency are included in a jurisdiction's registration scheme.

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

III. Tiering of Offenses

SORNA requires that offenses be classified based on the nature of the offense of conviction. The Miccosukee Tribe correctly places federal, state and tribal statutes at least within the minimum appropriate SORNA tiers.

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

IV. Required Registration Information

SORNA requires that the jurisdiction collect certain pieces of information from and for each offender that it registers, and requires that the jurisdiction keep that registration information, in a digitized form, in its registry.

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

V. Where Registration Is Required

SORNA requires that the jurisdiction register an offender if the jurisdiction is the one in which he or she is convicted or incarcerated. In addition, SORNA requires that the jurisdiction register offenders who reside, work or attend school in the jurisdiction.

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

VI. Initial Registration: Timing and Notice

SORNA requires that when an offender is incarcerated within the jurisdiction, registration must occur before release from imprisonment for the registration offense. Similarly, when an offender is sentenced within the jurisdiction, but not incarcerated, SORNA requires that registration occur within three business days of sentencing. Finally, when an offender has been convicted, sentenced or incarcerated in another jurisdiction (including federal or military court), the jurisdiction must register the offender within three business days of the offender establishing

residence, employment or school attendance within the jurisdiction. SORNA also requires that, during the initial registration process, the jurisdiction inform the offender of his registration duties and require the offender to acknowledge in writing that he understands those duties.

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

VII. Initial Registration: Retroactive Classes of Offenders

SORNA requires that each registration jurisdiction have a procedure in place to recapture three categories of sex offenders: those who are currently incarcerated or under supervision, either for the predicate sex offense or for some other crime; those who are already registered or subject to a pre-existing sex offender registration requirement under the jurisdiction's law; and those who reenter the jurisdiction's criminal justice system because of a conviction for some other felony crime (whether or not it is a sex offense).

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

VIII. Keeping the Registration Current

SORNA requires that when a sex offender resides in a jurisdiction, he or she must immediately appear in-person to update his or her name, residence, employment, school attendance and termination of residence. SORNA also requires that when an offender resides in a jurisdiction, he or she must immediately update any changes to his or her email addresses, internet identifiers, telephone communications, vehicle information and temporary lodging information.

When an offender works in a jurisdiction, but does not reside or attend school there, SORNA requires that the offender immediately appear in person to update employment-related information. When an offender attends school in a jurisdiction, but does not reside or work there, SORNA requires that the offender immediately appear in person to update school-related information.

SORNA also requires that when an offender resides in a jurisdiction and intends to travel outside the United States, he or she must notify the residence jurisdiction at least 21 days in advance of such travel.

In addition, SORNA requires that when an offender notifies the jurisdiction of his or her intent to relocate to another country to live, work or attend school, that the jurisdiction do three things: immediately notify any other jurisdiction where the offender is either registered, or is required to register, of that updated information; immediately notify the United States Marshals Service; and immediately update NCIC/NSOR.

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

IX. Verification/Appearance Requirements

SORNA requires that offenders register for a duration of time, and make in-person appearances at the registering agency, based on the tier of the offense of conviction. SORNA requires that offenders register for a duration of time based on the tier of the offense of conviction. Specifically, SORNA requires that SORNA tier I offenders register for 15 years, SORNA tier II offenders register for 25 years and SORNA tier III offenders register for life.

SORNA also requires that offenders make in-person appearances at the registering agency based on the tier of the offense of conviction. Specifically, SORNA requires that SORNA tier I offenders appear once a year, that SORNA tier II offenders appear every six months and that SORNA tier III offenders appear every three months.

In addition, SORNA creates certain requirements under which a jurisdiction can allow an offender to have a reduced registration period.

A. Duration of Registration

The Miccosukee Tribe requires that all tribal member offenders are required to register for life. Any non-tribal member offenders are subject to permanent banishment from the Miccosukee Tribe's jurisdiction, including the exterior boundaries of the reservation or on property owned by the tribe in fee or trust regardless of location.

B. Frequency of Registration

The Miccosukee Tribe requires that offenders appear in person at the Miccosukee Police Department for purposes of verification and keeping their registration current from the time of release from custody (for a sex offender who is incarcerated for the offense) or from the date of sentencing (for a sex offender who is not incarcerated for the offense) every 90 days.

C. Reduction of Registration Period

The Miccosukee Tribe does not permit offenders to reduce their registration.

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

X. Public Registry Website Requirements

SORNA requires that each jurisdiction maintain a public sex offender registry website and publish certain registration information on that website. SORNA also requires that certain information not be displayed on a jurisdiction's public registry website. SORNA also requires that a jurisdiction's website be listed on the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW).

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

XI. Community Notification

SORNA requires that each jurisdiction disseminate certain initial and updated registration information to particular agencies within the jurisdiction. In addition, SORNA requires that each jurisdiction also disseminate certain initial and updated registration information to the community.

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

XII. When a Sex Offender Fails to Appear for Registration

SORNA requires that when a jurisdiction is notified that a sex offender intends to reside, be employed or attend school in its jurisdiction, and that offender fails to appear for registration as required, that the jurisdiction receiving that notice inform the originating jurisdiction (the jurisdiction that provided the initial notification) that the sex offender failed to appear for registration.

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

XIII. When a Jurisdiction Has Information That a Sex Offender May Have Absconded

SORNA requires that when a jurisdiction has information that a sex offender may have absconded, that the jurisdiction take certain actions to investigate the absconder and notify various law enforcement agencies.

The Miccosukee Tribe meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section.

XIV. Other Considerations

There are no additional considerations.

Conclusion

The Miccosukee Tribe has put forth exceptional work and effort in substantially implementing SORNA and enhancing their sex offender registration and notification system.