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SORNA Substantial Implementation Review Puyallup Indian Tribe

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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians for the extensive work that has gone into their 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 review of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians' SORNA substantial implementation packet and has found that the Puyallup Tribe of Indians has substantially implemented SORNA.

On March 8, 2013, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians submitted a substantial implementation package that included the sex offender registration code, policies and procedures and registration and notification forms. It also included a land settlement agreement that, according to the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, transferred civil jurisdiction over non-American Indians and Alaska Natives (non-AIAN) to Washington State.¹ As such, American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) offenders register with the tribe pursuant to tribal law, while all non-AIAN offenders register with Pierce County pursuant to state law. This report therefore only assesses whether the tribe meets the SORNA requirements as applied to AIANs. Email and phone correspondence with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and Pierce County in Washington State informed this finding and filled gaps in information about procedures.

The review of these materials follows the outline of the SMART Office Substantial Implementation Checklist-Revised, which contains 14 sections addressing the SORNA requirements. Under each section, we indicate that the Puyallup Tribe of Indians 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 (NCIC)/National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) and the jurisdiction's public sex offender registry website.

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

¹ The August 27, 1988, land settlement agreement is between the "Puyallup Tribe of Indians, local Governments in Pierce County, the State of Washington, the United States of America, and certain private property owners." The agreement "resolves conflicts over governmental jurisdiction and resolves all land claims by the Puyallup Indian Tribe," among other purposes delineated in the agreement itself. Congress confirmed the agreement entered into by the parties in the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Settlement Act of 1989.

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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

III. Tiering of Offenses

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

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

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 tier I offenders register for 15 years, tier II offenders register for 25 years and 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 tier I offenders appear once a year, that tier II offenders appear every six months and that 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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians requires that offenders register for the following duration of time after their release from incarceration or sentencing: tier I offenders register for 15 years, tier II offenders register for 25 years and tier III offenders register for life.

B. Frequency of Registration

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians requires that offenders appear in person at the tribe's sex offender registration 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), as follows: tier I (every 12 months), tier II (every six months) and tier III (once every three months).

C. Reduction of Registration Period:

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians does not permit reductions of registration periods.

D. Clean Record Requirement:

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians does not have a clean record requirement.

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

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.gov).

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians has a public website on NSOPW: <https://puyallup-tribe.nsopw.gov>. This website lists all AIAN offenders who live, work or go to school within the boundaries of the reservation. Washington State is responsible for all non-AIAN offenders who live work or go to school within the boundaries of the reservation.

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians meets all of the SORNA requirements in this section for AIAN offenders. Washington State has jurisdiction over non-AIAN offenders.

XIV. Other Considerations

There are no additional considerations.

Conclusion

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