

Michigan revamps sex offender registry; “Romeo and Juliet” defendants no longer required to register as sex offenders

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On Tuesday, April 12, 2011, Governor Snyder signed Public Acts 17, 18 and 19 into law, revamping the state’s sex offender registry and finally bringing Michigan into compliance with the Adam Walsh Child Safety and Protection Act. Registered sex offenders must now provide law enforcement officials with additional identifying information including their Social Security number, passport information, email address(es), vehicle information and employer’s name. Law enforcement officials believe that this additional information will help them keep better track of offenders, and locate offenders more quickly, if needed.

The most significant amendment involves so-called “Romeo and Juliet” statutory rapists. Under the new law, individuals convicted of having consensual sex with an individual under age 16, the age of consent, will not have to register as a sex offender. The new law requires that the defendant be no more than four years older than his or her “victim” at the time of the offense. Today, 2,000 of the 45,000 individuals on Michigan’s sex offender registry are youthful offenders convicted after having consensual sex with a partner. Beginning on July 1, 2011, these youthful offenders currently on the registry may petition the trial court to remove their names from this list. It is expected that trial courts will be busy reviewing these petitions beginning in the summer of 2011.

The Detroit Free Press article discussing this new legislation is [here](#).