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**SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW REGULATIONS**  
*New regulations will enhance public safety by applying updated scientific research*

**SALEM** – The Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board (SORB) has filed updated regulations governing the classification of sex offenders in the Commonwealth. The redrafted regulations represent a comprehensive overhaul that reflects new scientific research regarding sexual recidivism, existing case law, and the Board’s legislative mandate to protect public safety. The new regulations take effect today.

“These regulations are the product of three years of hard work and in-depth research, and they properly balance the rights of offenders with the critical safety concerns that are at the heart of our mission,” **said SORB Chair Kevin Hayden**. “The new regulations provide a more efficient application of regulatory factors for hearing examiners and will help us to provide the most accurate information about offenders in a timely manner.”

The new regulations represent the most comprehensive overhaul of SORB regulations in 15 years. In 2001, the Board promulgated 24 regulatory factors (plus 13 sub factors) for consideration when classifying a sex offender. In the years since 2001, sex offender treatment practices, assessment techniques, and research have advanced. These changes coupled with a number of legal cases prompted the Board to update its regulations to reflect current scientific knowledge regarding sex offenders.

The Board began the process of revising its regulations in early 2013. Following a comprehensive review of relevant research and literature, the Board concluded that many of the regulatory factors that have been in use since 2001 remained relevant and supported by current research. Some regulatory factors that no longer have compelling empirical support were removed from the new regulations; several factors related to sexual recidivism that were not reflected in the scientific literature in 2001 were added as a result of the review.

The Attorney General’s Office and the Committee for Public Counsel Services provided valuable feedback during the regulatory review process. The Board held a public hearing on December 16, 2015 and incorporated feedback from that hearing into the new regulations.

The new regulations will be available at the following link:  
<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/spr/sprpub/pubhear.htm>

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