



Spring 2026

- AFC's recent work reflects organizational coordination and a growing presence in Colorado's policy landscape. The bi-weekly Monday morning meetings continue to anchor the group's advocacy, providing a consistent space for members to review legislation, plan strategy, and prepare testimony. This regular structure has strengthened communication, ensured rapid response to legislative developments, and helped maintain a unified voice for individuals and families affected by Colorado's sex-offense laws. AFC also successfully planned and held its quarterly general meeting, bringing together members, families, and allies for updates, education, and shared advocacy. The event reinforces AFC's dual role as both a policy-focused organization and a community support network.

AFC also has a commitment to a presence at the State Capitol. Members attend legislative hearings, when needed, and these activities are AFC's commitment to organized advocacy, community engagement, and meaningful participation in shaping Colorado's legislative decisions.

- Family Voices Meetings – Colorado Springs: For those in that area, Family Voices is a southern branch of AFC and meets monthly for education and support. For information on meeting dates, contact Marsha Brewer at [mbrewer2440@gmail.com](mailto:mbrewer2440@gmail.com).

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### **Judge rejects claim that the Arizona sex offender registry violates constitutional rights**

The state is justified in tracking residencies and online identities of convicted child sex offenders, the court ruled

BY:GLORIA REBECCA GOMEZ-NOVEMBER 11, 2025 10:12 AM

A federal judge has upheld Arizona's sex-offender registration laws, ruling that the state's requirements serve a legitimate public-safety purpose and do not violate constitutional rights. Judge Stephen McNamee concluded that Arizona has a strong governmental interest in protecting children and reducing the risk of reoffense, and that the challenged provisions fall within that authority.

Online-identifier reporting: Arizona law requires people convicted of crimes against minors to register with the county sheriff, those claims were rejected, noting that state law prohibits public disclosure of online identifiers and does not restrict what registrants may say online. The requirement, he wrote, is limited to allowing law enforcement to know where registered offenders are active on the internet.lifetime registration

Lifetime Registration: Doe, a level-one offender—the lowest risk tier—also challenged Arizona's lifetime registration mandate. He argued that requiring all offenders to register for life, regardless of

risk level, constitutes cruel and unusual punishment and violates due process because there is no mechanism to contest the requirement. McNamee ruled that the obligation is tied directly to the conviction itself. Because Doe had the opportunity to challenge the consequences of his offense during his criminal case, the judge found no constitutional violation in the automatic lifetime requirement.

Political Fallout and Related Litigation: The ruling has prompted political reactions. Legislative leaders Warren Petersen and Ben Montenegro intervened in the case and framed the decision as a victory, while criticizing Attorney General Kris Mayes for not defending the law. The case also unfolds alongside recent legislative expansions: in 2024, lawmakers broadened public-website postings to include more level-one offenders and required registrants with children to report their child's name and school. Three individuals affected by those changes have filed a separate lawsuit claiming civil-rights violations. That challenge remains active and seeks to block the expanded requirements.

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### **Megan's Law Keeps Harming America**

by [Dr. Marty Klein](#) on January 28, 2026 · [Sex & Politics](#), [Sexual Intelligence Blog](#)

Who cares about a bunch of sex offenders? And if we can keep children safer by destroying molesters' lives, what's the problem?

Megan's Law and similar sex-offender registration policies continue to create significant unintended harms without improving public safety, according to the analysis summarized here. Although these laws are promoted as tools to help families "make informed decisions," research shows they do not prevent child sexual abuse and instead reinforce fear and misunderstanding. Federal and university studies consistently find that registries divert attention and resources away from strategies that actually protect children.

Most child sexual abuse is committed by someone known and trusted by the family, not by strangers whose addresses appear on public maps. The CDC reports that about 90% of cases involve a known individual. Recidivism rates for sexual offenses are also lower than for many other crimes, meaning people on registries are rarely the source of new offenses. Emphasizing "stranger danger" teaches children ineffective safety strategies and undermines their confidence.

Registries also create conditions that can increase risk. Isolating registrants through housing restrictions, harassment, and public shaming removes stabilizing factors like employment and community support. Families of registrants face job loss, homelessness, stigma, and threats, weakening their ability to build safe, stable lives. These programs cost billions of dollars while diverting funds from prevention efforts that are proven to work.

Perhaps most concerning, these laws amplify public fear and anger without evidence that they make communities safer. They offer the appearance of action rather than effective protection, and they often pass without research demonstrating any benefit.

These laws invariably pass without any research to show that they will benefit anyone besides the companies that administer these programs

Why not simplify the problem and just execute sex offenders?

Actually, the Texas House of Representatives has passed that law. Yes, really.

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## **MO: Good news! 8th Circuit Denies Attorney General Requests**

Source: ACSOL, February 6, 2026

The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals today issued a decision denying requests by the Attorney General of Missouri for either a rehearing or an en banc hearing. The requests were filed after a panel of three judges from the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a decision on January 2, 2026, ruling that the Missouri law requiring registrants to post a sign on their home is unconstitutional.

The only remaining option for the Attorney General of Missouri to appeal the 8th Circuit Court of Appeal's decision issued last month is to request review of that decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The U.S. Supreme Court is unlikely to grant review of the 8th Circuit Court's decision for many reasons," stated ACSOL Executive Director Janice Bellucci. "One of those reasons is that the U.S. Supreme Court grants review of less than five percent of all requests for review."

Although the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals determined that the Missouri law is unconstitutional, the case will ultimately be returned to the trial court in order to consider a new remedy in light of the U.S. Supreme Court case, *Trump v. Casa*, which states that "universal injunctions" are not favored by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We will present an argument to the trial court that a permanent statewide injunction is not a 'universal injunction' because the scope of the trial court injunction is limited to one state," stated Bellucci.

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*Claudia Di Lima* Published February 27, 2026

### Domestic Violence Registry Proposal Advances In Legislature

The West Virginia House of Delegates passed a bill Tuesday that would create a public registry for domestic violence offenders, aiming to increase transparency and safety for victims across the state.

House Bill 5341 would require individuals convicted of certain domestic violence crimes to register with the West Virginia State Police. Their names, conviction dates, and other basic information would be made available to the public online, similar to the state's existing sex offender registry.

Talia Cartwright, president of West Virginia University's Her Campus – a woman's advocacy group – said the measure could help protect victims and improve public safety. Cartwright is a survivor of domestic violence.

"One single policy I don't think will completely eliminate domestic violence," Cartwright said. "But it does allow accountability, and people to access any information – women would be able to have more awareness about someone's documented history."

The bill, sponsored by Delegate Jonathan Kyle, R-Marion, and others, passed the lower chamber with bipartisan support.

"If we keep one child from having to see a domestic violence incident in the home, and one spouse or intimate partner in the future from being a victim of domestic violence, then this bill has done its job," Kyle said.

HB 5341 now heads to the state Senate, where it will be reviewed by the Judiciary Committee.

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**PO Box 103392**

**Denver CO 80250**

**AFC Website: [advocates4changeafc.org](http://advocates4changeafc.org)**

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