



Putnam County Justice Center
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Operation Eagle Eye

PCSO completes sex offender checks prior to academic school year.

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN –July 28, 2017, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office and United States Marshals teamed up to complete 90 sex offender registry checks in an effort code named 'Operation Eagle Eye'. This effort normally takes six months, and it was completed in three days. Deputies go out into the county to the sex offender's listed address and conduct on-site interviews to ensure that the offender and their residence are in compliance. While conducting the interview, the Deputy fills out a form to verify the sex offender's information (ex: who lives in the residence, phone number, make and model of vehicles present, license plate number(s), if they have a social media account, etc.), take detailed notes and inspect the residence. The Deputy looks for any "indicators" that might lead to suspicious activity. They will then generate a report based on findings and the form. Homeless sex offenders are required to check-in with the Sheriff's Office every month to conduct their interviews.

Other counties have utilized the U.S. Marshals to help complete their sex offender checks due to lack of manpower and resources. In addition to serving the warrants, the U. S. Marshals generously funded Operation Eagle Eye's purchase of equipment that directly support these investigations. Putnam County is fortunate to have a dedicated group of Deputies willing and able to go out into the county to conduct these on-site interviews twice a year. We have a dependable team of Deputies working behind the scenes as well. They keep all our records updated (digitized, concurrent with Tennessee Bureau of Investigations' records, input latest information, etc.), ensure that School Resource Officers have this information, and conduct other checks of offenders on the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website.

The current operation has conducted 90 interviews, generated 5 warrants, and led to 3 arrests along with two holds on offenders in other county jails. Since January of 2015, PCSO has completed 330 in home verifications, and attempted 108 more. This has totaled to 700 hours of work and 13 warrants that led to arrests. The PCSO encourages citizens to educate themselves by familiarizing yourself with the TBI's website (<https://www.tn.gov/tbi/section/tennessee-sex-offender-registry>). The site is a resource on sex offender laws in Tennessee, the registry and even has helpful search tools to research names and locations. The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website gives valuable information on what citizens can do to protect their families as well. According to the Center for Sex Offender Management's fact sheet, there is no such thing as a typical sex offender, and around 12 – 24% of offenders will

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reoffend.

Sheriff Eddie Farris would like to commend the U.S. Marshals on working with the PCSO in helping to keep Putnam County safe.

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