

Missing Sex Offender Found But Not Arrested

Addison, IL is a sizeable town with a close-knit community. Every summer the town throws a music in the park festival where residents of the town are welcome to enjoy live acts perform, food catered from various restaurants, and food chains. It is possible that a local resident, Frank Pelte, 49, could have once attended these Thursday night festivities years ago. Pelte however is currently in Weslaco, TX, miles away from Addison - and the teenager he sexually assaulted.

Over a decade ago Pelte was arrested and charged as a sexual predator. He had sexually assaulted a teenager between the ages of 13 and 16, according to the Illinois Sex Offender Information website.

In 2006 the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) was created, which obligates all sexual predator to register as a sex offender by law.

“A sex offender is required to update their registration in each jurisdiction they reside, are employed, or attend school,” according to the United States Department of Justice website.

Pelte however stopped registering some time in 2004, and was arrested by the Donna, TX police department, according to jail records, for failing to register. Pelte was arrested three more times for failing to register: in 2005, 2007, —both times the Addison police department had sent a warrant out for his arrest—and in 2013 when the Weslaco, TX police department booked him for the same crime.

Pelte can face up to ten years of imprisonment for failing to register, according to the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) website.

Pelte has continued to defy the system and live his life without registering. While he currently resides in Weslaco, TX he is not registered in under what they call their ‘agency’ or, database.

Officer Oliva from the Weslaco PD was able to confirm such information when a call was made to report Pelte continuous violation.

“He is not currently registered in our agency,” said Officer Oliva, “that doesn’t mean he isn’t with us, just that he isn’t registered.”

This is a problem consistently seen with our police departments nationwide as sex offenders are held solely responsible for their registration. According to SMART, a sex offender has at maximum three days to register at their jurisdiction once any changes have been made to their name, address, employment, or student status.

It is only when they are imprisoned and set for release that the jurisdiction that they are held in, and/or where the jurisdiction took place, is when the jurisdiction themselves will register the sex offender, states the SMART website.

Sex offenders have different check in times with their jurisdiction throughout the year as well depending on which “tier” they’re in, according to SMART.

Tier I sex offenders include offenders with “misdemeanor registration offenses and child pornography possession” and must visit their jurisdiction for registration annually.

Tier II offenders include offenders with felony charges involving “sexual abuse or sexual exploitation crimes involving victims who are minors, including distribution and production of child pornography” and must visit their jurisdiction every six months.

Tier III offenders include offenders that “encompass sexual assaults involving sexual acts regardless of victim age, sexual contact offenses against children below the age of 13, nonparental kidnapping of minors, and attempts or conspiracies to commit such offenses” and must visit their jurisdiction every three months for registration (SMART).

Pelte, who is a Tier III sex offender, was last registered as a sex offender when he resided in Addison, IL, before moving to Texas in 2016.

Two years later without registration in his new town in Weslaco, TX, Pelte has still not been charged with failure of registration in the Weslaco jurisdiction, nor in Addison IL for failing to inform of his residence change like all offenders are required to do under the SNORA law.

Weslaco PD was informed of Pelte failure to register as a sex offender on October 19th. Weslaco PD did not want to comment on the current status of Pelte and said they have no plan on arresting him in the future.

In order to report a missing sex offender in your area please contact the United States Marshal Service (USMS) National Sex Offender Targeting Center (NSOTC) at:
Iod.nsotc@usdoj.gov