

NC Department of Justice



NC Mobile Sex Offender Registry *User's Guide*

v1.4
9/26/2013

Introduction

The mobile NC Sex Offender Registry app was designed with ease-of-use and the citizen's needs in mind. It is a quick way to find registered sex offenders who live in NC and is part of the Attorney General's mission to protect and inform the citizens of North Carolina. For the web-based NC Sex Offender Registry please visit <http://sexoffender.ncdoj.gov>.

This app will run on an iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch and most Android devices with version 2.2 and higher. Differences between these two platforms will be noted in the documentation. We currently do not support other platforms such as Windows 8 or Blackberry.

This app provides for four basic functions:

1. *Search for registered sex offenders in NC by GPS location*
2. *Search for registered sex offenders in NC by street address*
3. *Display detailed information about a particular sex offender including their offenses and latest photos when available*
4. *Ability to sign up for email alerts for a particular offender.*

The following buttons are available in the Mobile SOR app:

1. **Search** – Allows you to perform searches of registered sex offenders in NC
2. **FAQ** – Displays the frequently asked questions page
3. **Help** – Displays basic help information about the app
4. **Home** – Takes the user to the main menu (splash screen)
5. **Back** – Takes user back one screen
6. **Street** – Allows user to search for offenders by street address
7. **CurLoc** – Obtains the user's current GPS location and displays the sex offenders surrounding that location
8. **1, 3 and 5 Mile** – Allows user to search at the 1, 3 and 5 mile radii
9. **Offenses** – Displays offenses for selected offender
10. **Alerts** – Allows user to sign up for email alerts

To get started with the Mobile SOR app simply touch the "NC SOR" icon on your device as shown in Figure 1.

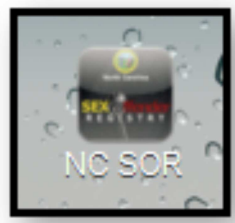


Figure 1

The main menu (splash screen) is displayed as shown in Figure 2. Android users will see an “Exit” button as well.

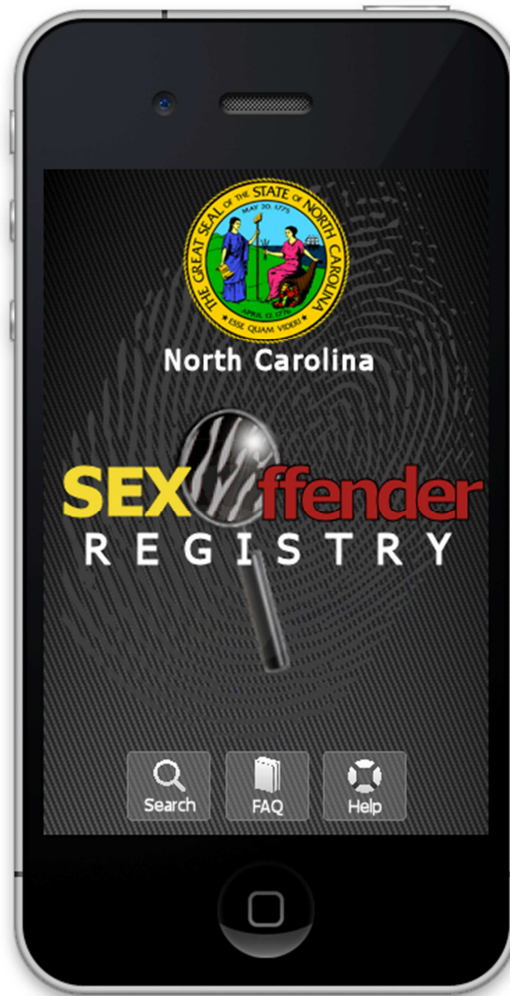


Figure 2

***IMPORTANT NOTE** – The first time you run the app you may be prompted to “allow” the app to use your phone’s Location Services (GPS). **You must allow this for the app to use your GPS to locate offenders.** If you initially do not allow this change you may change this setting by ensuring both the “Location Services” and the “NC SOR” app are “ON” for your device. For the **iPhone** go to your device’s “Home” screen then click “Settings”, “General”, and “Location Services”. For the **iPad** go to your device’s “Home” screen then click “Settings” and “Location Services”. For **Android**, go to “Settings”, “Location and Security” then ensure “Use GPS satellites” is checked. On some phones, you may have to go to “Settings”, “More”, “Location Services” and check “Access to My Location” and “Standalone GPS services”.

1. Search by GPS Location

This user's guide will concentrate on the “**Search**” function within the app. To begin a search touch the “**Search**” button on the main menu. The app uses the device's internal GPS to locate your current position. Your location **MUST** be in NC or within 5-miles of the NC borders to return results via the GPS search. Once the app locates your position it will display all registered sex offenders in NC who are within one mile of your current GPS location. In the example as shown in Figure 3 there are 7 offenders within a 1-mile radius of the user's current location.

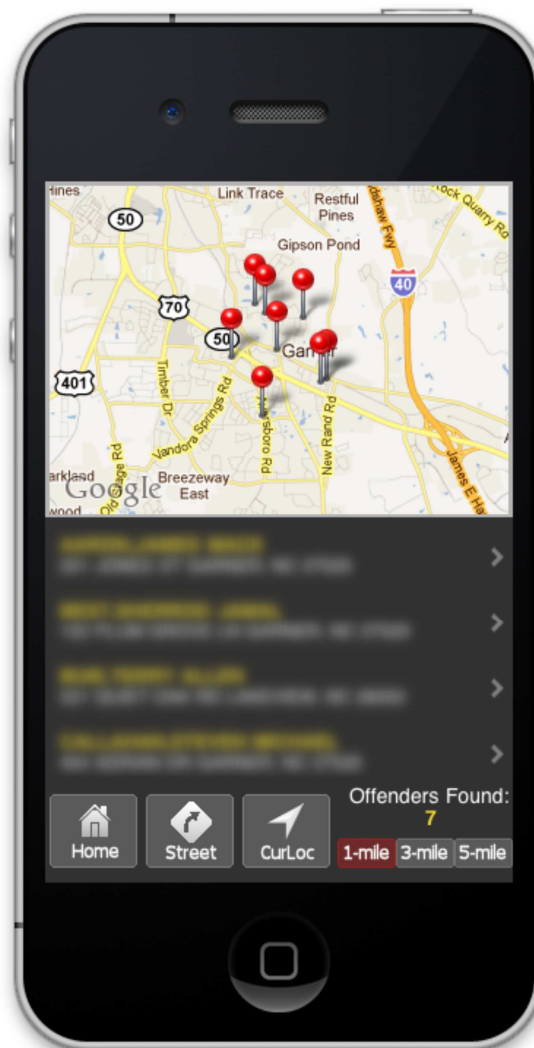


Figure 3

Each offender found will be displayed with a marker (red pin) on the map as well as an entry in the list of offenders that is displayed below the map. The total number of offenders for the search is displayed on the bottom right. The map is interactive. i.e., you can pinch/zoom the map, move it around, etc. However, doing so does not change anything about the number of offenders displayed on the map. To see what offender is

represented by a particular marker simply touch on that marker and a popup box will display the offender's name and street address (Figure 4). Touching the popup box or anywhere else on the map will cause that popup box to disappear.

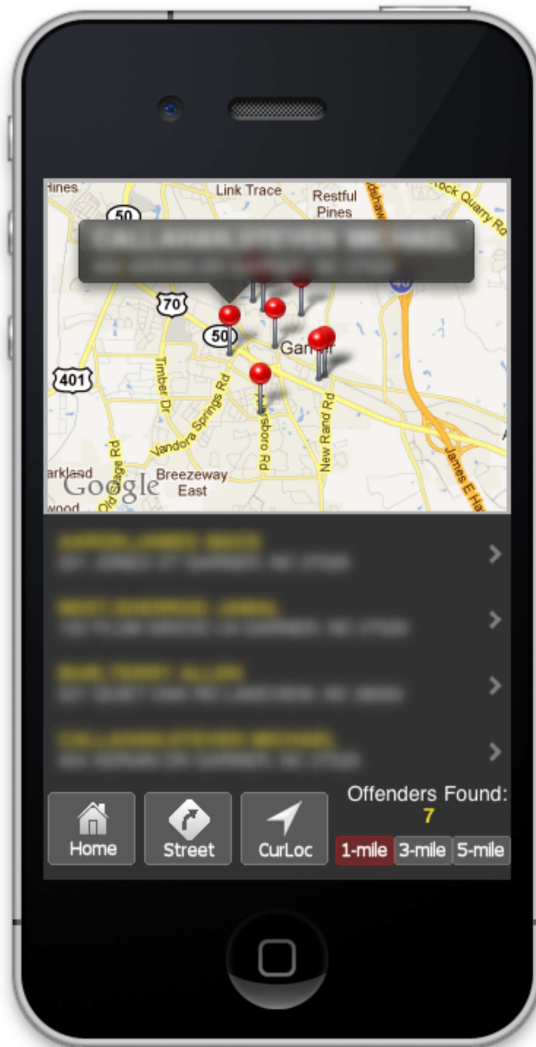


Figure 4

The app defaults to finding offenders within one mile of your current GPS location. To search for offenders within a three or five mile radius simply touch the respective buttons in the lower right hand corner. In the example below (Figure 5) there are 138 offenders within a 3-mile radius of the user's current GPS location. When the markers become cluttered (like in this example) you can zoom in on the map which moves the markers farther apart.

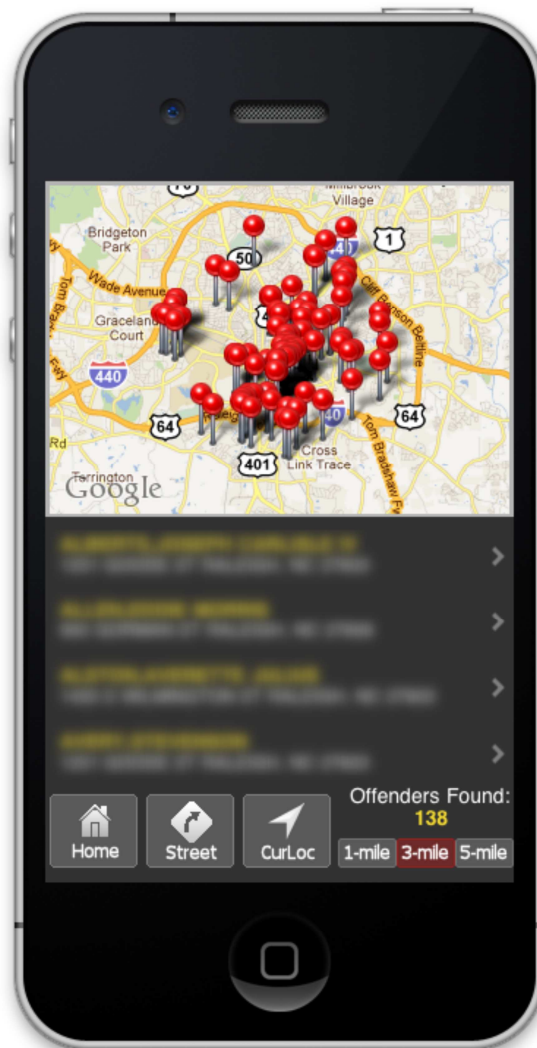


Figure 5

2. Search by Street Address

To search for offenders by street address touch the “**Street**” button. You will be prompted to enter a street address as shown in Figure 6. Currently, the NC Mobile SOR app uses Google Maps for its mapping function. Enter as much or as little information about the street address as you wish then Google Maps will do its best to find then geocode the location. For more accurate results, Google recommends using the “address, city state” or “address, city zip” format when entering addresses but this is not required. The app will allow you to enter any address in the world however only registered sex offenders living within the boundaries of NC will be returned.

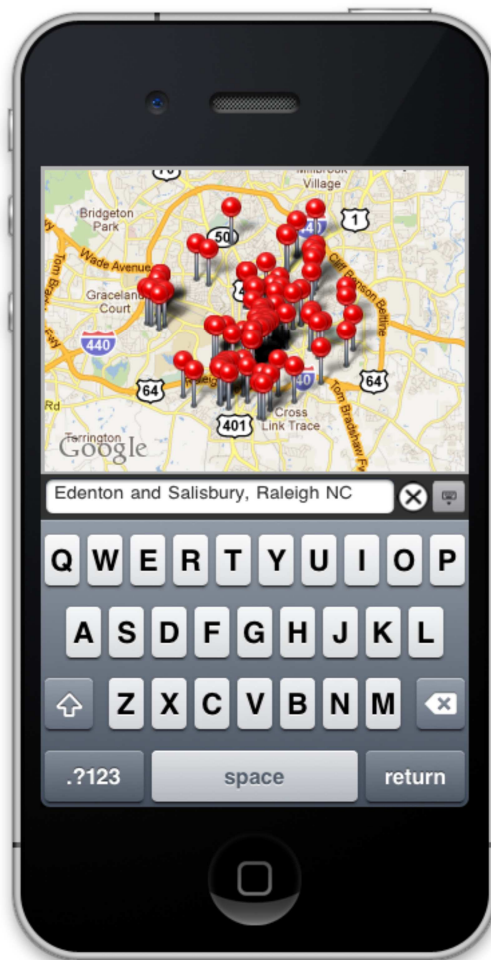


Figure 6

Typing in the street address and touching the “**return**” key will start the offender lookup. The offenders will be displayed as shown in Figures 3 and 5 above. The app temporarily stores the last radius chosen and uses that for its current search.

3. Display Detailed Information about an Offender

To display detailed information about a particular offender touch the offender's name in the scrolling list located below the map. The detailed information for that offender is then displayed as shown in Figure 7.

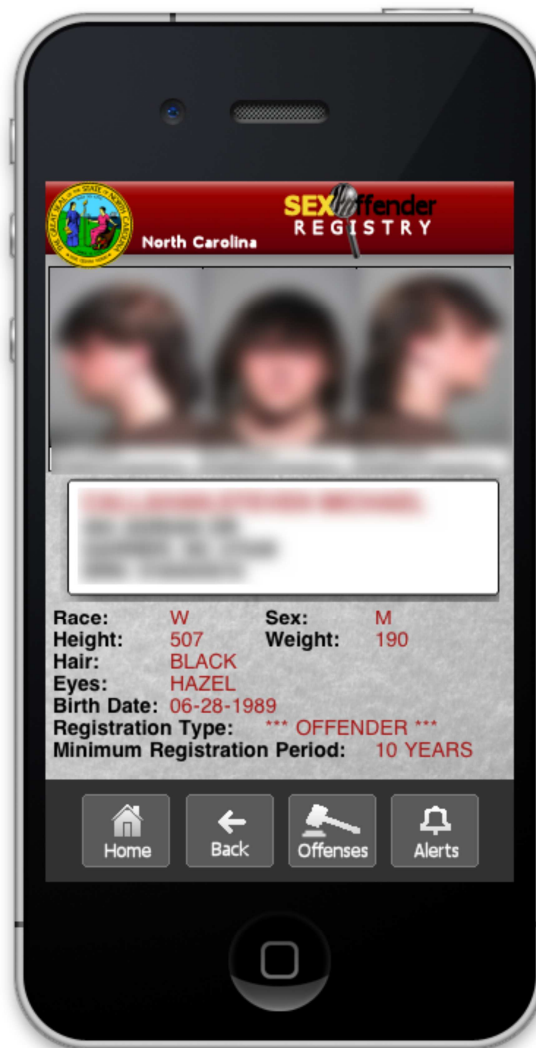


Figure 7

To display the offenses for the selected offender touch the “**Offenses**” button. A scrollable list of offenses will be displayed as shown in Figure 8. Touching the “**Back**” button will return you to the offender’s detailed information. These two buttons act like a toggle switch and allows the user to quickly go between the detailed information and the offenses for the selected offender.

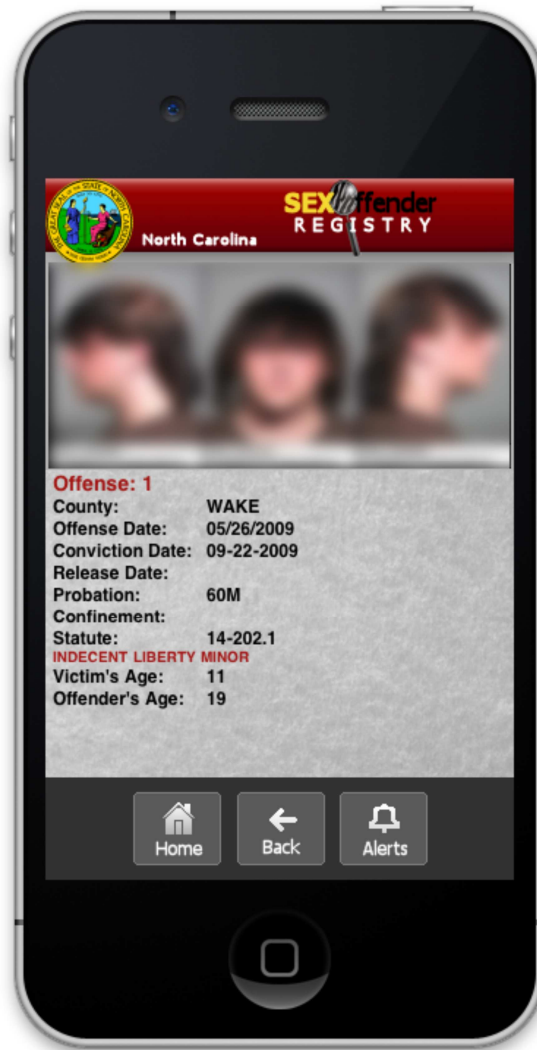


Figure 8

All three offender photos are interactive. Touch one of the photos and it will zoom in to fill the majority of the screen as shown at left in Figure 9. From here you can zoom in and out on the photo and drag it around the screen as shown in center and right in Figure 9. If the photo becomes unmanageable or is no longer visible on the screen you can simply touch the “**Center**” button and the photo will return to its original size. Touching the “**Back**” button will take you back to the offender’s detail screen



Figure 9

4. Signup for Email Alerts

To sign up for email alerts for the selected offender touch the “**Alerts**” button on the offender detail screen (Figure 8 above). The app will present you with the “Get Email Alerts” screen shown in Figure 10 below.

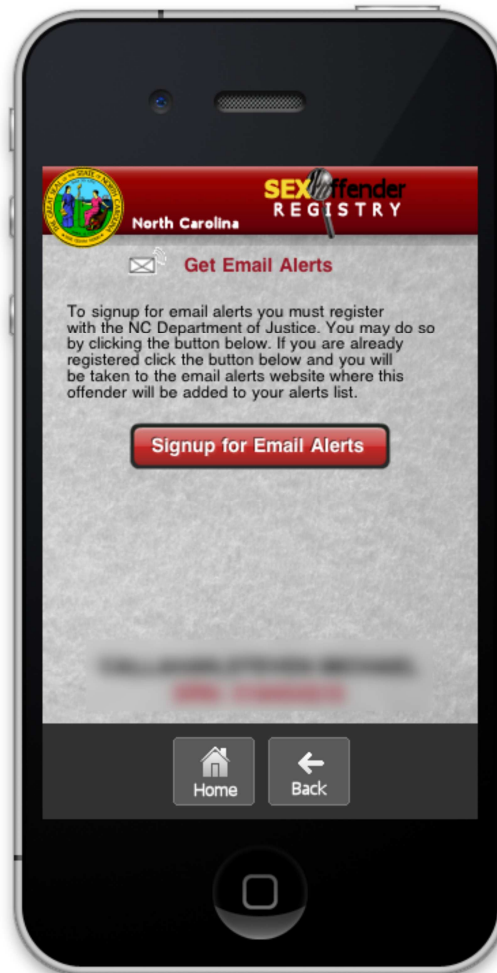


Figure 10

When you touch the “**Signup for Email Alerts**” button shown in Figure 10, a window containing the NC DOJ Alerts Signup website is displayed where you can sign up for alerts (Figure 11). You must be a registered user with NC DOJ to sign up for email alerts. This window is also interactive so if the wording on the website is too small to read you can pinch/zoom for a larger view. If you have not registered with NC DOJ then touch the “**Register**” link on the website and follow the instructions. If you are already a registered user, simply touch the “**User Name**” and “**Password**” fields to log in. The selected user is automatically added to your email alerts when you log in. You may also signup for alerts by street address while in the Alerts Signup website. For more information on the email alerts website, touch the FAQ and Help links shown on the Alerts Signup website. **NOTE:** Be sure to “Logout” of the website before continuing.

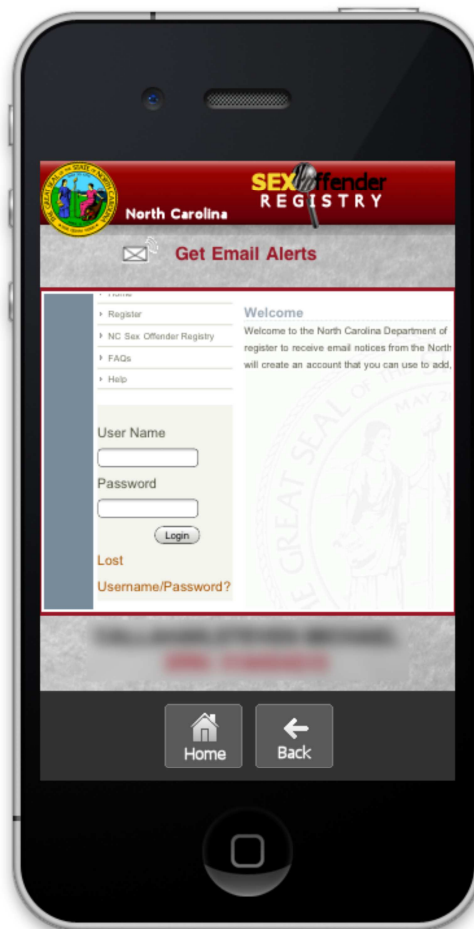


Figure 11

Touching the “**Home**” button will take you to main menu (splash screen).

5. Potential Issues and Troubleshooting

The app depends on two critical pieces to work properly. The GPS needs to be in clear sight of three satellites so it can triangulate your position and your device needs network access either through your carrier's cellular service or a wireless LAN. If at any time either of these is not working properly or if the NC DOJ Sex Offender web service is inaccessible you will get the message shown in Figure 12. When you touch the OK button you will be returned to the main menu (splash screen) where you may try your search again.



Figure 12

The NC Department of Justice IT Division has worked hard to uncover any bugs with the app and correct them ahead of time. If you happen to encounter any issues or bugs with the app or if you simply have comments or suggestions for improvement please direct them to <http://ncdoj.gov/mobileappsupport.aspx>. We will be happy to assist.