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## No internet for sex offenders

Posted by Jacob - 2007/12/30 14:15

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I just came across this article on CNN internet news about a bill introduced in NJ to prohibit convicted sex offenders from using the internet. Violators would be subject to up to 18 months in jail and a \$10k fine.

Does this violate 1st Amendment rights? Is it cruel & unusual punishment?

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/12/27/internet.sex.offenders.ap/index.html>

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## Re:No internet for sex offenders

Posted by Jackie - 2008/01/10 21:46

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Not cruel and unusual at all! Their use of the internet landed them in prison to begin with. They're on parole (which in and of itself is bad enough). We most certainly should impose restrictions on the very avenue that enables them to continue their illegal activity.

There's also no 1st Amendment Right to internet access. The words "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press" means legislators may not enact a law that deprives an individual of their constitutional right of free expression. No one is stopping them from speaking their mind, no one is stopping them from writing down their thoughts... but we certainly have no obligation to provide the pen and paper.

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## Re:No internet for sex offenders

Posted by Jacob - 2008/01/11 12:12

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I understand what you are saying, but communication over the internet is a form of speech. That being said, prohibiting persons of all uses of the internet is a restraint on speech which would violate the 1st Amendment.

I think its an issue ripe for the courts.

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## Re:No internet for sex offenders

Posted by Jackie - 2008/01/11 14:47

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I support free speech on the internet... but I think we have a right to restrict their access to the internet as a condition of their parole. Just as we restrict their travel in that they can't be within a certain number of feet of a school or playground. It's certainly ripe for the courts.

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## No internet or cell phones for sex offenders

Posted by steve - 2008/01/12 00:36

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Lets take it one step further and ban the use of cell phones by child predators.

See the attached link. Any thoughts?

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/CRIME/01/11/teachers.charged/index.html?iref=mpstoryview>

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## Re:No internet or cell phones for sex offenders

Posted by Mark - 2008/01/12 16:30

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Sexual predators represent a serious risk to children and to families. Their Constitutional rights should be abrogated to

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protect the defenseless. I believe that the courts will say the same thing.

Studies have shown that sexual predators can not help their addiction and act on impulses. They need a structure that prohibits them acting on impulse. If that means forbidding them from using a cell phone or internet, then the courts should do it.

Lets not forget that we take away constitutional rights at the border and at airports for national security.

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## Re:No internet or cell phones for sex offenders

Posted by Tony\_S - 2008/01/12 17:47

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How about just setting up restrictions on use - like having a cell phone that can only call certain numbers, or only letting them visit restricted sites on the web, and not allowed to post or chat. This seems like a pretty straightforward set of restrictions to implement - especially if they have to pay for it.

It seems extreme to keep people from finding jobs, buying things, reading news, or calling people when these acts aren't dangerous.

Yeah, pedophiles can't be allowed to run loose to attack kids, but the internet and phones have become a basic to communication and work. We're not talking about becoming a teacher (reasonable to ban).

Besides, aren't these restrictions imposed on people who do some relatively minor things (oral sex with a spouse in a car, for example, or a 17 and 15 yo having oral sex)? Who is looking out for abuses of the system?

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## Re:No internet or cell phones for sex offenders

Posted by abr41 - 2008/01/13 05:19

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from what i read, the reason for the complete ban on internet use is that there are so many websites and ways to communicate over the internet (e.g. DOS based emails) to solicit minors via the internet that it is easier and cheaper to just ban a pedophile's use of the internet completely rather than permit him restricted access/use. Can you image how much it would cost to monitor their activity?

Ultimately, pedofiles will find a way to satisfy their desire, like going to other countries or using web bars to access the internet. The best defense is teach children how to avoid and defend themselves from these freaks.

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