



## Juneau County Sheriff's Office

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*BRENT H. OLESON, SHERIFF • CRAIG H. STUCHLIK, UNDERSHERIFF*

### SEX OFFENDER INFORMATION BULLETIN

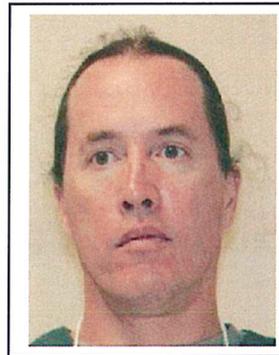
April 20, 2017

The Juneau County Sheriff's Office and Elroy Police Department is releasing the following information pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 301.46(2m). This statute authorized law enforcement, at their discretion, to inform the public of a sex offender's release. The release of this information will enhance public safety, awareness and protection. The individual who appears on this notification has been convicted of a sex offense. Further, his criminal history places him in a classification which reflects his potential to re-offend. **He is NOT wanted by law enforcement at this time.** This notification is not intended to increase fear; rather, it is our belief that an informed public is a safer public.

Sex offenders have always lived in our communities, but it was not until the Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification Law was enacted that law enforcement was able to share this information with the community. Citizen abuse of this information to threaten, intimidate or harass registered sex offenders will not be tolerated.

**T.J. Nels Steinmetz** is currently on supervision and is a registered sex offender.

Name: T.J. Nels Steinmetz  
Age: 41  
Race: White  
Sex: Male  
Height: 5'11"  
Weight: 190  
Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Hazel



T.J. Nels Steinmetz will be released on April 21, 2017, and will be residing at 511 Western Avenue in the City of Elroy. Steinmetz will be on 24 hour electronic GPS monitoring and must comply with all supervision rules. He is also a lifetime registrant of the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registration Program.

#### **Additional Sex Offender Information:**

As of this date there are approximately 20,000 registered sex offenders in the State of Wisconsin. Of these, 5000 are currently on probation or parole. Information regarding this offender, or other sex offenders in the community can be located the State of Wisconsin Sex Offender web site located at <http://offender.doc.state.wi.us/public/>

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## SEX OFFENDERS WHO ABUSE CHILDREN CHARACTERISTICS AND BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS

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When most people imagine a sex offender, they picture some ugly old man in a trench coat coaxing children to come to him in exchange for some candy. They do not picture Uncle Joe or Aunt Susan, the neighbor next door, the friendly parishioner, a family member, or a trusted co-worker. They do not think of a mother or a father, or in the case of single parents, their significant other. This misconception has been effectively dispelled through information obtained in thousands of child sexual abuse investigations over the years. **SEX OFFENDERS COME FROM ALL ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS AND FROM ALL SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS.** They can be male or female, rich or poor, employed or unemployed, religious or nonreligious, or from any race.

Through numerous case studies, the Department of Justice has developed characteristics and behavioral indicators of a pedophile (an adult sexually attracted to children). Parents, as these characteristics are being reviewed, please do a mental assessment of your child's environment and the people and situations that might apply.

1. Most often an adult male.
2. Usually married.
3. Works in a wide range of occupations from unskilled to executive.
4. Relates better to children than adults.
5. Socializes with few adults unless they are also pedophiles.
6. Usually prefers children in a specific age group.
7. Usually prefers either males or females, but may be bisexual.
8. May seek employment or volunteer with programs involving children of the age of his preference.
9. Pursues children for sexual purposes.
10. Frequently photographs or collects photos of his victims either dressed, nude or in sexually explicit acts.
11. Collects child erotica and child-adult pornography to use in the following way:
  - a. to lower inhibitions of victims
  - b. to fantasize when no potential victim is available
  - c. to blackmail victims to keep them from telling
12. May possess and furnish alcohol or narcotics to his victims to lower inhibitions.
13. Is usually intelligent enough to recognize he has a personal problem and understands the severity of the problem.
14. May go to great lengths to conceal his sexual crimes.

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15. Often rationalizes his sexual crimes, emphasizing his positive impact on the victim and minimizing or denying the harm he is doing.
  16. Often portrays the child as the aggressor. Usually happens after the child has learned to withhold cooperation as a means of obtaining presents, trips, etc.
  17. Talks about children in the same manner as one would talk about an adult's spouse or significant other.
  18. Often seeks out publications and organizations that support his sexual beliefs and practices.
  19. Usually corresponds with other pedophiles and exchanges child pornography and erotica as proof of involvement.
  20. Is usually nonviolent and has few problems with the law (pedophiles are frequently a respected community member).

The widespread misconception that child sexual offending consists solely of children being seized from the street and forcibly sexually assaulted could not be further from the truth. Although these sexual assaults do occur, the vast majority of child sex offenders are adults who are known to the child and seduce the child through subtle intimidation and persuasion.

The intra-familial sex offender is usually an adult male (father, stepfather, live-in boyfriend of the mother). Although physical abuse may occur, the sexual assaults are usually secretive and accomplished through mental duress and threats. Threats may include the offender telling the child that he/she would be removed from the family if he/she did not succumb to the offender's wishes, that he/she would be blamed for hurting the family if the offender is arrested, or that a sibling would be sexually assaulted if the victim did not consent. The sexual assaults occur over an extended period of time, occasionally into the victim's adulthood. Through intimidation, the child is made to feel responsible for the sexual assaultive behavior and for keeping the acts secret. The secret is normally kept between the offender and the victim or within the immediate family.

The single parent family is particularly vulnerable to the pedophile; the parent usually has a full-time job and is attempting to fulfill the role of both parents, as well as run the household. In some cases, the parent is unable to provide the psychological support the child needs. These situations may contribute to the success of the child sex offender who can and will provide the caring attention, however superficial, that may be lacking at home. Many sex offenders who abuse children seek out mothers of single parent families for the purpose of victimizing their children.

Domestic problems in intact families also can make children vulnerable to child sex offenders.

As a parent, what can you do? The single most effective means of protecting your child is **COMMUNICATION** with your child. Children have to feel comfortable discussing sensitive matters with you. By keeping the communication open with your child, it will lower the chances of your child becoming a victim of a sex offender.



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## **THE FIRST RULE OF SAFETY**

**Someone must always know:**

**where you are going,  
with whom you are going, and  
when you will be back.**

*Do you follow this rule with and for your loved ones?*

Parents and adults in children's lives are their role models. Children mimic the adults around them and expect that adults can read their mind. **That's why it is so important for all of us to discuss with our children all the safety issues that may be a problem to them, and listen when our children talk to us.**

We teach our children how to cross busy streets, how to ride their bikes safely, how to brush their teeth, proper nutrition, personal hygiene, and not to go anywhere with a stranger. Let's teach them to follow the safety rule – **not to go anywhere with anyone unless someone who cares for them knows where they are going, with whom they are going, and when they will be home.** (This covers the possibility of someone known to the child attempting an enticement.) We must, as responsible adults, also talk with our children about abuse, particularly sexual abuse. Because over 80% of children who are sexually assaulted are assaulted by someone they know, it's okay for children to say "NO" to anyone (even someone they know or a family member) who tries to hurt them, takes nude photographs, or touches them in ways that are confusing, uncomfortable, or upsetting. It is especially important for parents to encourage their child to tell them about any such incidents. If a child relates a problem, stay calm, praise the child and assure him/her that you will help.

Young children do not make up detailed stories of sexual abuse. They don't have the experience. It's very important to tell the child you believe him/her and report the incident to the police or your county social services department for investigation and follow-up.

Nurturing physical touch is believed to be necessary to every person's well being. Children can be encouraged to enjoy giving and receiving nurturing touches. Children need to be taught that it's never okay to hurt someone else on purpose. They can also be taught that it's okay to say "NO, STOP," to someone hurting them on purpose, or to other confusing or upsetting touches. Reassure your children that their world is an exciting, interesting, and rewarding place to live and most adults are only interested in the child's welfare. This information is much like learning to ride a bicycle safely or learning what to do in case of a fire. Once you know what to do, you do not have to worry about it. A child's sense of inquisitiveness and loving does not have to be stunted in this process. Teaching these coping skills and strategies is not limiting, it's empowering. **COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILDREN – TALK AND LISTEN.**

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## THE FOLLOWING IS BASED ON THE PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORS PROGRAM

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### ***THEMES:***

**WE ALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO FEEL SAFE ALL THE TIME.** Concept of Safe/Unsafe: Discuss what feeling “safe” feels like. Acknowledge that sometimes it’s fun to feel a little bit scared. How does your body help warn you that you may be in a scary or unsafe situation? (Your stomach feels “funny,” your knees shake, your heart beats fast or hard.) Teach children to trust their instincts and say or do whatever they must to take care of themselves. Stress that adventurousness and risk-taking is okay, within the concept of safety. Teach children that other people have the right to feel safe with us also.

**NOTHING IS SO AWFUL YOU CAN’T TALK ABOUT IT WITH SOMEONE.** Networking: Who are your “safe” people (trusted others)? Who could you ask for help with any problem? We all need to know at least four people, besides the people we live with, we could ask for help if we have a problem we can’t solve ourselves. Persistence: If the person you ask for help doesn’t believe you or can’t help you, keep asking until someone helps you solve the problem and you feel safe again.

### ***STRATEGIES:***

Teach your child **one step removed problem-solving**. “What could someone do if...” or, “What would you say if someone told you...” or, “A friend of mine needs to know...”

Use brainstorming to discuss strategies and techniques for staying safe in various potentially unsafe or abusive situations. Use scenarios and ask, “Even if...(this) happened, what could you do to stay safe?” and “Suppose....(this) happened, what could you do to stay safe?” questions. This process develops the ability to see more than one solution to a problem and explore suggested alternatives for safety factors.

A wide variety of topics and issues can be covered using these themes, strategies and ideas, from enticement prevention to the safety issues for childcare workers or runaways.

### ***IDEAS REINFORCED:***

**SAYING NO.** It’s important to reinforce empowered responses to help build problem-solving skills and self-esteem, and to develop assertive behavior. Encourage children to take what control they can; remind them to use their network; and let them know that it’s always okay to say “NO” in any potentially unsafe situation. Acknowledge that saying “no” isn’t always easy and the possibility exists that saying “no” might not work. Sometimes a person may feel that it’s not safe to say “no.” Remind them to take the next step and ask themselves what else they could do even if they weren’t able to say “no.”

**NEVER THE CHILD’S FAULT.** Reinforce that child abuse or sexual assault is never the child’s fault. Remind the child that it will be up to the child to ask a trusted adult for help with any problem he/she can’t solve. If a child discloses an abuse, stay calm. Reassure that it was good for him/her to talk about the problem.

**SECRETS.** Explore the concept of secrets. Secrets should be fun. (like a birthday or Christmas present that everyone will feel good about). Such comments as, “If you tell anyone ‘our’ secret, no one will love us anymore” and “If you tell about this, they’ll send me away” or “If you say anything, I’ll tell them you’re lying” are **threats, not secrets**, and it’s okay to tell someone you trust about that.

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# PARENTAL GUIDELINES WHEN CHOOSING A DAYCARE<sup>1</sup>

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Parents who pay careful attention in choosing quality daycare can provide an ideal environment for their children during the day – one that presents challenging educational opportunities and allows young children to play creatively and socialize with each other. Because parents want the best possible care for their children during the day, this document has been developed to help parents find quality daycare providers, identify early warning signs of sexual and physical abuse and exploitation, and learn what to do if sexual and physical abuse or exploitation is suspected or disclosed. A 1988 nationwide study on sexual abuse in daycare confirms that children are generally safe in daycare; in fact, abuse happens more often in the home than in daycare facilities. Nevertheless, abuse in daycare does occur and parents should be prepared with prevention tools they need to protect their children.

## *Finding Quality Daycare Providers*

Excellent sources of information on quality daycare providers are the recommendations of family, friends, and neighbors. Lists of licensed daycare providers may also be available from the local department of social services, daycare licensing offices, local schools, and community resource centers. While the large majority of daycare centers are safe, your children may still be at risk of sexual and physical abuse or exploitation regardless of whether the daycare center is small or large, high-priced or inexpensive, public or private, in the inner city or in the country.

Visit prospective daycare centers, take a tour, and interview the daycare staff personally, observing their interaction with your children and the other children. Look for mature and responsible people who listen and respond well to your children and appear relaxed and happy with them. Also arrange to meet with other individuals who may have contact with your child, such as bus drivers, janitors, and relatives of the daycare personnel (particularly if daycare is provided in a residence). When you have a list of possible daycare centers, check their references carefully. Contact the police department and department of social services to determine if any reports have been made on the daycare provider. If it is a larger daycare facility, make sure it is licensed and the employer completes criminal history background checks on their employees.

Specific recommendations that will help you choose a safe and secure daycare center and help reduce the risk of sexual and physical abuse and exploitation of children in daycare:

1. Make sure the daycare center is designed so parents are free to come and go, with no requirements to call first and no areas off limits to parents.
2. Make certain that the bathrooms do not contain areas where children can be isolated. Find out who takes the children to the bathroom, for what purposes, and at what times.

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<sup>1</sup> Information for this document gathered from National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

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3. Be sure there is proper supervision of the children during naps.
  4. Ask about the extent of education and training of all daycare personnel interacting with your children, and determine if they were screened for any criminal history in sexual or physical assault against children, emotional instability, or substance abuse. Be aware that volunteers or teacher's aides may not have been screened.
  5. Find out who will be interacting with your children in addition to the daycare provider and staff.
  6. Discuss in depth with the daycare provider how the discipline of children is handled – who administers it, under what circumstances it is used, and what form is used.
  7. Make sure to talk to your children each day about what happens at the daycare center, paying close attention to what punishments were used under what circumstances and any other incidents that made the child uncomfortable.

### ***Detecting Sexual Abuse and Exploitation***

Parents bear the chief responsibility of identifying and reporting sexual and physical abuse and exploitation in daycare. The reality of sexual exploitation is that often children are very confused, uncomfortable, and unwilling to talk about the experience. But they will talk if you have established an atmosphere of trust and support in your home, where your children will feel free to talk without fear of accusation, blame or guilt.

Parents should be alert to these indicators of sexual and physical abuse and exploitation (a child may exhibit one or two or many of these indicators, or sometimes none at all):

- ▶ Changes in behavior, extreme mood swings, withdrawal, fearfulness, and excessive crying
- ▶ Changes in bed-wetting, nightmares, fear of going to bed, or other sleep disturbances
- ▶ Acting out inappropriate sexual activity or showing an unusual interest in sexual matters
- ▶ A sudden acting out of feelings or aggressive or rebellious behavior
- ▶ Regression to infantile behavior, clinging
- ▶ School problems, behavior problems
- ▶ Changes in toilet training habits
- ▶ A fear of certain places, people, or activities; an excessive fear of going to the daycare center
- ▶ Bruises, rashes, cuts, limping, multiple or poorly explained injuries
- ▶ Pain, itching, bleeding, fluid, or rawness in the private areas

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## *What to Do if Sexual Abuse is Detected*

There is always a chance that your child will disclose acts of abuse and exploitation in the daycare center. If this happens, we want you to be prepared to help the child in the following ways:

1. Although you may feel panicky, try not to show alarm or anger in front of your child.
2. Strongly support the child's decision to tell you about the abuse.
3. Do not return the child to the daycare center until you are convinced that it is safe.
4. Immediately alert the police, sheriff's office, or other law enforcement agency.
5. Immediately alert the child protection, youth services, child abuse, or other appropriate social service agencies.
6. Seek out medical attention for the child. Call your doctor or go to a clinic or hospital.
7. Discuss the need for counseling or therapy for the child with a doctor, social worker, law enforcement officer, or clergy.
8. Take appropriate steps, under the advice of child care professionals and law enforcement, to have other parents using the daycare center alerted.
9. Do not negotiate with the daycare director yourself; rely on the appropriate social service and licensing agencies.
10. If you are unsure about whether your child has experienced sexual and physical abuse and exploitation, consult with a doctor, social worker, law enforcement officer, or a member of the clergy.

The support and cooperation of the victim's parents are invaluable to the effective resolution of the sexual abuse case. Be open and available to the investigators and prosecutors handling your child's case. If there is media involvement, make sure that your child's name and face, your name and face, and other private information remain confidential.