

**11.14(j) FAILURE BY A SEXUAL OFFENDER TO COMPLY WITH
REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

§ 943.0435(9), Fla. Stat.

To prove the crime of Failure by a Sexual Offender to Comply with Registration Requirements, the State must prove the following three elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

Give 1a or 1b as applicable.

1. (Defendant)
 - a. **is a sexual offender.**
 - b. **has agreed or stipulated that [he] [she] has been convicted as a sexual offender; therefore, you should consider the sexual offender status an element as proven by agreement of the parties.**

If the defendant offers to stipulate, the court must accept the offer after conducting an on-the-record colloquy with the defendant. See Brown v. State, 719 So. 2d 882 (Fla. 1998); Johnson v. State, 842 So. 2d 228 (Fla. 1st DCA 2003). If there is a stipulation, the court should not give the definition of “sexual offender” or “convicted.”

2. (Defendant) **[established] [maintained] a permanent, temporary, or transient residence in** (name of county) **County, Florida.**
3. (Defendant)
 - a. **knowingly failed, by act or omission to** (name the unprovided registration items charged, as worded in the statute).
 - b. **knowingly provided false registration information, by act or omission.**

It is a defense to the crime of Failure by a Sexual Offender to Comply with Registration Requirements that (defendant) attempted to comply but was misinformed or otherwise prevented from complying by the office of the sheriff.

There is no statute for the defense of being misinformed or otherwise prevented from registering, and the case law is silent as to (1) which party bears the burden of persuasion of the affirmative defense and (2) the standard for the burden of persuasion. Under the common law, defendants had both the burden of production and the burden of persuasion on an affirmative defense by a preponderance of the evidence.

The Florida Supreme Court has often decided, however, that once a defendant meets the burden of production on an affirmative defense, the burden of persuasion is on the State to disprove the affirmative defense beyond a reasonable doubt (e.g., self-defense and consent to enter in a burglary prosecution). In the absence of case law, trial

judges must resolve the issue via a special instruction. See the opinion in Dixon v. United States, 548 U.S. 1 (2006), for further guidance.

If burden of persuasion is on the defendant:

If you find that (defendant) **proved** (insert appropriate burden of persuasion) **that the office of the sheriff misinformed [him] [her] or otherwise prevented [him] [her] from complying with the registration requirements, you should find [him] [her] not guilty. If the defendant did not prove** (insert appropriate burden of persuasion) **that the office of the sheriff misinformed [him] [her] or otherwise prevented [him] [her] from complying, you should find [him] [her] guilty if all the elements of the charge have been proven beyond a reasonable doubt.**

Or, if the burden of disproving the affirmative defense is on the State under the beyond a reasonable standard:

If you find that the State proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the office of the sheriff did not misinform (defendant) **or did not otherwise prevent [him] [her] from complying with the registration requirements, you should find** (defendant) **guilty if all of the elements of the charge have been proven beyond a reasonable doubt. However, if you have a reasonable doubt on the issue of whether the office of the sheriff misinformed** (defendant) **or otherwise prevented [him] [her] from complying with the registration requirements, you should find [him] [her] not guilty.**

Definitions. See instruction 11.14(h) for the applicable definitions.

Lesser Included Offenses

No lesser included offenses have been identified for this offense.

Comment

This instruction was adopted on June 27, 2025.