

New law creates the crime of unlawful use or access of social media. Prohibits the use or access of social networking websites, chat rooms, or peer-to-peer networks by a person who is required to register as a sex offender and who was either previously convicted of indecent behavior with juveniles, pornography involving juveniles, computer-aided solicitation of a minor, video voyeurism, or was previously convicted of a sex offense in which the victim of the offense was a minor.

New law provides an exception for those sex offenders who have permission to access social networking websites, chat rooms, or peer-to-peer networks from his probation or parole officer or a court of original jurisdiction.

New law defines "chat room", "minor", "peer-to-peer network", and "social networking website".

New law provides for the following penalties:

- (1) Upon a first conviction, the offender shall be fined not more than \$10,000 and shall be imprisoned with hard labor for not more than 10 years without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.
- (2) Upon a second or subsequent conviction, the offender shall be fined not more than \$20,000 and shall be imprisoned with hard labor for not less than five years nor more than 20 years without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Adds R.S. 14:91.5)