Angela L. Polizzi FILED American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona COPY RECEIVED 77 E. Columbus, Suite 205 Phoenix, Arizona 85012 JUN 0 9 2004 State Bar No. 017359 Tel: (602) 650-1854 **CLERK U.S DISTRICT COUF** Attorneys for Plaintiffs O. Joseph Chornenky O. Joseph Chornenky, P.C. 301 E. Bethany Home Road, Suite A-209 Phoenix, Arizona 85012 State Bar No. 02782 Tel: (602) 264-3289 Attorneys for Plaintiffs IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA No. CV C, V '04 1191 PHX 10 CHRISTOPHER J. STANNARD, ) a single man, individually and as natural guardian for TYLER STANNARD, a minor; TYLER PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT FOR STANNARD, a minor; INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY 13 RELIEF Plaintiffs, 14 15 THE CITY OF PHOENIX, ARIZONA, a municipal corporation; DETECTIVE 17 TOM JONÉS, in his official capacity as officer and employee of the City of Phoenix Police Department; JOHN DOES 1-10, fictitious individual defendants; JANE DOES 1-10, fictitious individual defendants; Defendants. 21 22 Plaintiffs Christopher J. Stannard, individually and as natural guardian of Tyler 23 Stannard, and Tyler Stannard, a minor, allege as follows: JURISDICTION AND VENUE 25 This action arises under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and the Fourteenth Amendment to the 26 United States Constitution. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 27 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343(4). Jurisdiction to grant a declaratory judgment is 28

conferred by 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

#### THE PARTIES

- Plaintiff Christopher J. Stannard, a single man, was a resident of Maricopa County at all times relevant to this Complaint. Plaintiff Christopher Stannard is bringing this Complaint individually and as natural guardian of Tyler Stannard, a minor. Plaintiff Tyler Stannard, a minor, is the natural son of Christopher Stannard and at all times relevant herein, was a resident of Maricopa County and resided with his father, Christopher Stannard.
- Plaintiff Christopher Stannard pled no contest to a charge that required registration as a sexual offender pursuant to A.R.S. § 13-3821, et seq.
  - Defendant City of Phoenix ("Phoenix") is a municipal entity duly organized under the laws of the State of Arizona which caused an event to occur in Maricopa County from which this suit arises. The City of Phoenix Police Department is a department of the City of Phoenix. Defendant Detective Tom Jones acted in the course and scope of his duties at all times relevant to this Complaint. Defendant Phoenix is liable for the actions of Jones and other officers in the course and scope of their duties.
  - At all times relevant herein, Defendant Detective Tom Jones ("Defendant Jones") was employed with the Phoenix Police Sex Offender Evaluation Unit and caused an event to occur in Maricopa County from which this suit arises. Defendant Jones was acting within the scope of his authority at all times relevant to this Complaint.
  - At all times relevant hereto, Defendants acted under color of state law in connection with their enforcement of A.R.S. § 13-3825, et seq.

Defendants John Does 1-10 and Jane Does 1-10 are unknown defendants who may be identified at some future date as having responsibility for the incidents which occurred in this case. In the event their identities become known, Plaintiffs will amend their Complaint accordingly.

#### THE STATUTORY SCHEME

- Pursuant to A.R.S. § 13-3821, persons convicted of certain specified offenses are designated as "sexual offenders" who must register with the sheriff of the County where they reside (hereinafter, "registrants"). Registration as a "sexual offender" is required solely on the basis of a conviction for one of the offenses enumerated in the statute.
- 10. Persons required to register as sex offenders are required to provide information as required by the Department of Public Safety. The person must also be photographed and fingerprinted by the sheriff. The statement, photograph, and fingerprints are then forwarded to the criminal identification section with the Department of Public Safety and the Chief of Police, if any, of the place where the individual resides. A.R.S. § 13-3821(H).
- 11. Upon the initial registration and every year thereafter, the person must obtain a nonoperating identification license or driver license from the motor vehicle division of the Department of Transportation. The license is valid for one year and the person must provide proof of his or her address to the Department of Transportation. A.R.S. § 13-3821(I).
- 12. If the person has a prior conviction for an offense for which registration is required, the individual is required to register for life. If the person was required to register for a conviction of unlawful imprisonment of a minor or kidnaping of a minor, the individual must register for ten years (absent an additional or subsequent conviction.) A.R.S. § 13-3821(L).

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Within seventy-two hours after moving from the person's address within a county 13. or changing his or her name, the registrant must inform the sheriff in person and in writing of the registrant's new address and/or new name. If the registrant moves to a location which is not a residence and the person receives mail at a post office box, the registrant must notify the sheriff of the location of the post office box and its number. Within three days, the sheriff must forward this information to the criminal identification section of the department of public safety and chief of police from where the registrant moves. This information will then be forwarded to the chief of police where the registrant has moved. A.R.S. § 13-3822(A). 

Within seventy-two hours after moving from a county in which the person is registered, the registrant shall notify in writing the sheriff of the county from which the registrant moved. If the registrant is subject to community notification, the sheriff shall then advise the local law enforcement agency of the county to which the registrant moved. If the registrant moves out of state, the sheriff shall notify the local law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction to which the registrant moves. The local law enforcement agency shall then contact the Department of Public Safety within ten days of being notified to determine if the person has reregistered. If not, the local law enforcement agency shall notify the local law enforcement agency of the county where the registrant last resided which will conduct an investigation and report to the appropriate county attorney. A.R.S. § 13-3822(B).

15. Any person who is subject to registration and fails to comply with the requirements of the aforementioned sections is guilty of a class 4 felony. A.R.S. § 13-3824.

16. Within seventy-two hours after a person who was convicted of one of the enumerated offenses is released from confinement or who is accepted for supervision of parolees and probationers, the agency who has custody or

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- responsibility for the supervision of the person must provide the registrant's "identifying information" to the Department of Public Safety ("D.P.S."). The agency must also complete and provide a risk assessment of the registrant. D.P.S. then enters the information and risk assessment into a sex offender profile and notification database. A.R.S. § 13-3825(A).
- Following the tenth day after the registrant is released from confinement or 17. sentenced to probation, the Department of Public Safety must forward the information in Paragraph 16 to the sheriff of the county where the person is registered. A.R.S. § 13-3825(B).
- After receiving the information referenced in Paragraph 17, the sheriff must 18. forward it to the chief law enforcement officer of the community where the registrant resides. The local law enforcement agency must then classify each registrant and place him or her into a notification level. Within forty-five days, the local law enforcement agency shall notify the community of the registrant pursuant to "guidelines" established by a community notification guidelines committee. A.R.S. § 13-3825(C).
  - Irrespective of the community notification guidelines, law enforcement officers are still permitted to give the community notice of any "circumstances or persons that pose a danger to the community[.]" A.R.S. § 13-3825(H). The statute fails to set forth any standards to determine the circumstances as to when a person or circumstance presents a "danger to the community." Local law enforcement is also given the discretion to accept the risk assessment level already performed or to complete its own risk assessment.
  - When an individual is assessed as a Level I offender, the local law enforcement agency that is responsible for notification must maintain the offender's identifying information which may be given to other law enforcement agencies and

individuals with whom the offender resides. Law enforcement has the discretion to notify the registrant's "community" only if the individual is a "danger to the community." A.R.S. §§ 13-3825(H); 13-3826 (E)(1).

- 21. For Level II offenders, law enforcement may notify immediate neighbors, schools, appropriate community groups, and prospective employers. The notification may include a flyer with the offender's photograph, general address, and a summary of the offender's status and criminal background. A.R.S. § 13-3826(E)(2).
- 22. For Level III registrants, notification must be given to the surrounding neighborhood, area schools, community groups, and prospective employers. The notification must include a flyer with the registrant's photograph, exact address, summary of the registrant's status and criminal background. A press release and flyer must be given to the media for the information to be published, which includes the registrant's exact address. A.R.S. § 13-3826(E)(3).
- 23. Level II and Level III registrants must also have their information posted on an internet sex registrant web site, maintained by the Department of Public Safety, which is disseminated to the public. The information on the web site includes the registrant's name, exact address, date of birth, current photograph, and information on the offense committed. A.R.S. § 13-3827.
- 24. Upon information and belief, there is no procedure to permit registrants to contest the assigned classification, risk assessment, or the necessity of notification to protect the public or any individual in the jurisdiction from the registrant.
- 25. There is no procedure under which registrants can appeal any determination of the assigned classification, risk assessment, notification level, or that it is necessary or mandated. Upon information and belief, there is no review or oversight of the classifications, risk assessments, or notification level determinations made by law enforcement personnel.

26. Even after a risk assessment is conducted on a particular registrant who is then assigned a specific notification level (i.e., Level I or Level II), law enforcement personnel are still permitted to change and raise the notification level of the registrant (i.e, from a Level I to a Level II or III). This can occur several years after the date on which the original risk assessment and notification level was determined, and does not have to be based on any new or additional facts related to risk.

27. A.R.S. § 13-3821, et seq. does not provide any standards to determine the circumstances under which notification is necessary to protect the public or any individual, or when the registrant constitutes a "danger to the community."

The system of designating persons as "sex offender" and placing them in a risk assessment which then permits or mandates community notification as described above suggests to the public that Arizona law enforcement officials have made an objective and reasonable determination that the persons so designated pose a danger to the community.

However, Plaintiffs allege that the risk assessment is arbitrary and discriminatory:

Persons who are subject to the community notification are unfairly stigmatized and threatened with the adverse consequences resulting from public perception that they pose a danger to the community.

### COMMON ALLEGATIONS

On November 16, 1999, because he was not guilty, Defendant Christopher Stannard pled no contest to two counts of Attempted Sexual Assault, class 3 felonies, as part of a plea agreement with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. These are non-dangerous, non-repetitive offenses under the criminal code. As to both counts, Mr. Stannard received lifetime probation and was required to register as a sex offender pursuant to A.R.S. §13-3821.

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Pursuant to A.R.S. § 13-3825(A)(2), the probation department assessed Mr. Stannard as a Level I sex offender. As a result, pursuant to A.R.S. § 13-3826(E)(3), this risk assessment was provided to the Phoenix Police Department which had the discretion to accept it or complete another risk assessment and change it. The Phoenix Police Department also had the discretion to notify the community of Mr. Stannard's offense if it felt he was a danger to the community. The Phoenix Police Department, however, did neither and thus it accepted Mr. Stannard's Level I risk assessment and determined that no community notification was needed. Further, due to his Level I status, D.P.S. could not place Mr. Stannard on its sex offender website.

32. In or around 2001, Mr. Stannard was incarcerated for three months due to a probation violation. The charge was failure to pay a \$40.00 probation fee.

After his release, another risk assessment of him was completed and he was raised to a Level II sex offender.

On November 6, 2003, almost four years after the original assessment of Mr. Stannard was completed and accepted by the Phoenix Police Department, Detective Tom Jones of the Phoenix Police Department completed another risk assessment of Mr. Stannard. Detective Jones arbitrarily and capriciously determined that Mr. Stannard should be at a Level II sex offender status, for reasons that are still unknown to Mr. Stannard.

34. Detective Jones then notified Mr. Stannard's neighbors and the schools in the area where he resided, including the school which his son, Tyler, attended. The notification consisted of a flyer with Mr. Stannard's photograph and information of his plea of no contest to two counts of attempted sexual assault. The flyer further stated that "Christopher Stannard placed animal tranquilizers in the victim's drinks prior to his sexually assaulting them. His victims were known to

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him. He is currently on supervised probation." The flyer provided the numbered block and street of his residence.

- Due to Detective Jones' arbitrary determination that Mr. Stannard was a Level II offender, the Department of Public Safety placed him on its sex offender website. This information included Mr. Stannard's photograph, exact address, and listed his offense as "sexual assault." It also provided identifying information about him, including his height, weight, age, and gender.
- 36. Prior to Detective Jones' November 2003 sex offender assessment, Defendants never offered Mr. Stannard any opportunity to provide any input to the assessment, explain the circumstances underlying his plea, or any other information.
- 37. Since Detective Jones did not investigate the original charges against Mr. Stannard and was not connected to the criminal prosecution in any way, Mr. Stannard requested to meet with Detective Jones to discuss the reason for his reassessment and determination to raise Mr. Stannard to a Level II. Detective Jones refused.

  Mr. Stannard subsequently reiterated this request with Detective Jones' Supervisor, Sergeant Bell, but the request was once again refused.
  - Detective Tom Jones has failed to give any reason for performing another assessment on Mr. Stannard in 2003. Since Mr. Stannard's plea agreement in 1999, Mr. Stannard has not been arrested, charged, convicted, or accused of any criminal acts or sex offenses that affect risk.
- 39. Due to the arbitrary and erroneous assessment of Mr. Stannard as a Level II offender and the community notification, Mr. Stannard and his son were evicted from their apartment complex where they had resided for over three years without incident. Mr. Stannard incurred moving costs and other expenses associated with the relocation. After he moved, Detective Jones sent another community notification to Mr. Stannard's neighborhood.

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- After the initial community notification, Mr. Stannard's twelve year-old son, Tyler, was subjected to intense teasing and harassment from his classmates at school. As a result, Mr. Stannard was forced to withdraw Tyler from the public school and enrolled him in a smaller, private school. Mr. Stannard incurred substantial expenses and costs associated with enrolling Tyler in the private school.
- After the community notification, Tyler's grades in school immediately declined. Subsequently, Tyler began treating with a counselor for the trauma caused by the social stigma of the community notification of his father. Tyler is still treating with the counselor and Mr. Stannard has incurred substantial expenses associated with the treatment.
- The community notification triggered by Detective Jones' arbitrary determination of Mr. Stannard as a Level II sex offender also resulted in Mr. Stannard's termination from his job.

#### **IRREPARABLE HARM TO PLAINTIFFS**

- Defendants' enforcement of A.R.S. § 13-3821, et seq. threatens Plaintiffs with continuing irreparable injury for which there is no adequate remedy at law, including the following:
  - Plaintiff Christopher Stannard is being publicly branded as a danger to the community regardless of whether there is any basis for such as assessment;
  - b. Plaintiff does not have a constitutionally sufficient means of contesting the change and determination of his designation to a Level II sex offender;
  - c. Plaintiffs are threatened with a multitude of possible adverse consequences resulting from Mr. Stannard being changed to and classified as a Level II sex offender, including shame, humiliation, ostracism, loss of employment, decreased employment opportunities, interference with business opportunities, loss of housing, interference with family and social

relationships, and possible physical harm inflicted by members of the public who believe that Mr. Stannard is a danger to the public.

Unless Defendants are enjoined from further enforcement of A.R.S. § 13-3825, et. seq., Plaintiffs will continue to suffer irreparable injury for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

## COUNT ONE: PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS VIOLATION

- Plaintiffs re-allege and re-incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained above as though fully set forth herein.
- Plaintiff Christopher Stannard has a constitutionally protected liberty and property interest in not being falsely designated and raised to a Level II sex offender who constitutes a danger to the community. Since the date on which Defendants determined Mr. Stannard to be only a Level I offender who did not present a "danger to the community", there have not been any new allegations, charges, or investigations concerning Mr. Stannard. The liberty and property interests of Plaintiffs arise under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 2, § 4 of the Arizona Constitution. In addition, Plaintiffs has a protectible privacy interest which arises under Article 2, § 8 of the Arizona Constitution.
- Defendants' conduct has stigmatized Plaintiff and harmed his son. Detective Jones' reassessment and determination that Mr. Stannard was a Level II sex offender was based on the same facts and information which existed to the individual who conducted the same risk assessment of Mr. Stannard in November 1999. In addition, in November 1999, if the Phoenix Police Department did not agree that Mr. Stannard was a Level I offender and/or that community notification was not needed, it could have completed another risk assessment and raised him to a Level II at that time. It did not and thus the Phoenix Police Department agreed in

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- Now, more than four years later, Detective Jones has arbitrarily completed his own risk assessment and, based on the same facts and information available in 1999, determined that Mr. Stannard should be a Level II offender and that he presented a "danger to the community" warranting community notification.
- 49. The aforementioned different risk assessments, which are based on the same facts and information, demonstrate the arbitrariness of the entire risk assessment system. There is no procedure to determine if there is any factual basis for the reassessment. There is also no manner to review or appeal Detective Jones' reassessment.
- 50. Defendants' failure to provide timely and adequate notice before reclassifying Mr. Stannard as a Level II offender, and before notifying his community, violates the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and Art. 2, § 4 of the Arizona Constitution.
- 51. Defendants' failure to grant Mr. Stannard an opportunity for a hearing to contest the reclassification and provide information relevant to the assessment, and/or to provide for any appeal or review of the reclassification, violates the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and Art. 2, § 4 of the Arizona Constitution.
- Defendants' failure to establish objective and reasonable criteria to use in the classification of sex offenders violates the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and Art. 2, § 4 of the Arizona Constitution.
- 53. Mr. Stannard and his son, Tyler, will be irreparably harmed if a Preliminary and Permanent Injunction are not granted enjoining the State, through its agents, from

further notifying the community of his sex offender status and posting information on the sex offender web site.

# COUNT TWO: UNCONSTITUTIONAL DELEGATION OF LEGISLATIVE POWER

- Plaintiffs re-allege and re-incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained above as though more fully set forth herein.
- 55. Detective Jones allegedly relied upon A.R.S. § 13-3825(H) to make his determination to reclassify Mr. Stannard as a Level II sex offender.
- 56. A.R.S. § 13-3825(H) is an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power as it violates the "Intelligible Principle" of both the United States Constitution and Arizona Constitution, both of which require the separation of powers between the three branches of the government.
- 57. The aforementioned statute gives unfettered discretion to local law enforcement or an individual law enforcement officer to determine the community notification classification of a registered sex offender without any guidelines. Defendants wrongfully reclassified Mr. Stannard because the statute provides no clear guidelines to ensure a just and accurate classification. The statute allows for unfettered, unchecked, biased, discriminatory, and unrestricted determinations by an individual who may not have any training in the field.
- 58. The Arizona Supreme Court requires an "intelligible principle" behind any delegation of legislative authority so that it is lawful under the non-delegation doctrine. The Arizona Supreme Court has held that the Arizona Legislature can confer authority upon an agency or department to exercise its discretion in administering the law. The delegation, however, must be limited by clear guidelines which define with sufficient clarity the agency's legal boundaries. The intelligible principle is even more important when criminal statutes are construed

and the delegation of legislative authority to an administrative agency in this regard must be definite and certain. There are no definite, certain, or clear guidelines defining the legal boundaries of **1**59. who constitutes a "danger to the community" pursuant to A.R.S. § 13-3825(H). COUNT THREE: UNCONSTITUTIONALLY VAGUE Plaintiffs re-allege and re-incorporate by reference each and every allegation 60. contained above as though more fully set forth herein. The term "danger to the community" utilized in Section 13-3825(H) is 61.

impermissibly vague in that it does not describe who or what constitutes a "danger to the community." Similarly, the classification process permitted by A.R.S. § 13-3825(A) is impermissibly vague as there are no clear, objective guidelines as to how the notification levels and sex offender status are to be made. Both sections fail to give law enforcement agencies clear and explicit standards to utilize in making the community notification and sex offender status determinations. They also fail to provide notice to persons of reasonable intelligence of what constitutes a "danger to the community" and what sex offender status an individual will be placed in.

This vagueness invites arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement. There are no 62. objective standards and the risk assessment and community notification determination is enforced according to the personal prejudices of law enforcement.

For these reasons, A.R.S. §§ 13-3825(A) and 13-3825(H) are impermissibly vague 63. in violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and the Arizona Constitution. Defendants, through their employee Detective Jones, have refused to suspend any community notification of Mr. Stannard. Plaintiffs are suffering irreparable harm from the ongoing violation of their constitutional rights and will continue to suffer

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2		REQUEST FOR RELIEF
3		Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request:
4	A.	Preliminary and permanent injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants from enforcing
5		the risk assessment sex offender classification scheme, authorized by A.R.S. §§
6		13-3825, et seq.;
7	В.	A declaration that A.R.S. §§ 13-3825(A), 13-3825(H), and 13-3826(E), on their
8		face and as applied, violate the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States
9		Constitution and Art. 2, § 4, of the Arizona Constitution, by depriving individuals
10		of due process of law before they are classified into a risk level which dictates
11		community notification;
12	C.	A declaration that A.R.S. §§ 13-3825(A) and 13-3825(H) are unconstitutionally
13		vague;
14	Þ.	A declaration that the risk assessment and determination to raise Mr. Stannard to a
15		Level II offender, and to notify his community, is void;
16	E.	Preliminary and permanent injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants from any
17		further community notifications concerning Mr. Stannard;
18	F.	An award of attorneys' fees, expert fees, if any, and other costs pursuant to 42
19		U.S.C. § 1988(b) and (c), the private attorney general doctrine, and any other
20		applicable authority or rule of equity;
21	G.	All other relief that this Court deems just and proper.
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such harm unless this Court enjoins enforcement of these statutes.

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1	DATED this day of June, 200	4.
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3		By:
4		Angela L. Polizzi American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona
5		Attorneys for Plaintiffs
6		By: Of the Las
7		O. Joseph Chornenky
8		O. Joseph Chornenky, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiffs
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10	Original and one copy of the foregoing filed this 99 day of June, 2004, with:	
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12	Clerk of the Court United States District Court,	
13	District of Arizona	
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