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July 6, 2026

Gov. Bill Lee
1st Floor, State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee,

We are sure that you are aware of [Kian Neal in Collegedale](#) who has been charged with, and openly admitted to, murdering a man he did not know. Mr. Neal found his victim, Robert Locke, by searching the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry for a registrant who lived close to him.

He then, according to the statement he made at his hearing July 1, “. . . *walked through the woods to the back of his house, and I went and killed him with a hammer. He wouldn't die so I kept hitting him with the hammer.*” He said he also choked Locke and disposed of the body in a dumpster. Police are still searching a landfill for the remains.

Mr. Locke's family had reported him missing in May.

Governor Lee, this could not have occurred had the Tennessee registry not contained the full physical address of the individuals listed there. If the purpose of the registry is to positively affect public safety, it is difficult to see how it does that when it instead leads—not only to harassment, as it has done for years—but to such vicious, violent murder.

[The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws—NARSOL](#)—beseeches you to immediately order the removal of street addresses from the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry. Tennessee is not the first state this has happened in. Registrants have been murdered—often after having been tracked using the state sex offender registry—in, among others, Washington State and Maine, twice in each; in Pennsylvania; in North Carolina; in California; and in Nevada. Let Tennessee be the first to take the most sensible step of making it impossible for disturbed individuals to use the state sex offender registry as a road map to track and murder victims.

[Texas has just charged a woman](#) for harassing a registrant and family members online and causing them loss of a job, a college program, and personal safety.

How much more culpable is Tennessee over causing a man the loss of his life and his family the loss of their family member?

Act today! Order that physical addresses be suppressed from online access of the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry. This action will not strip the citizens of access and may save lives.

Respectfully yours,

Robin W. Vander Wall
Chair, NARSOL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RATIONAL SEXUAL OFFENSE LAWS

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