

## **Sex Offender Registration**

The North Carolina Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry was established in January 1996 due to the General Assembly's enactment of Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS 14-208.5). This law requires a person who is a resident or relocates to North Carolina and who has a reportable conviction to maintain registration with the sheriff of the county where the person resides. The Registry is accessible at the following web address. <http://sexoffender.ncdoj.gov/> Information on offenders residing in the College's immediate service area of McDowell County may be obtained through search options available on this website. A written request for a paper copy of the countywide registry may also be made to the McDowell County Sheriff's Office.

Effective December 1, 2008, Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the North Carolina General Statutes was amended to add section 14-208-18 entitled "Sex offender unlawfully on premises." This amendment is known as the Jessica Lunsford Act. Sex offenders covered under this Act cannot be knowingly "at any place" where any person under the age of 18 years gathers for educational programs or be on the premises of any child care facilities. Sex offenders covered under the Act include those convicted of first-degree rape, second-degree rape, first-degree sexual offense, second-degree sexual offense, sexual battery, statutory rape, or sexual offense of a person who is 13, 14, or 15 years old. Since persons under the age of 18 years regularly attend educational programs at the MTCC Main Campus and Job-Link facility the presence of a sex offender covered under this Act at any these MTCC locations represents a possible criminal violation. MTCC officials notify law enforcement of all possible criminal violations.