



OFFICE OF THE  
**UTAH STATE AUDITOR**

**News Release**  
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**Office of the Utah State Auditor Releases**  
**A Performance Audit of Sex Offender Access to Vulnerable Populations**

**Salt Lake City, UTAH –**

The Office of the Utah State Auditor (Office) today released *A Performance Audit of Sex Offender Access to Vulnerable Populations*. Auditors in several states noted serious concerns with inadequate controls to prevent registered sex offenders from having unsupervised access to vulnerable populations residing in or receiving care in state operated or state licensed or approved facilities. The purpose of this performance audit was to review the adequacy of similar controls in Utah.

Generally, the agencies reviewed appear to prevent registered sex offenders from gaining employment in public service careers that require regular interaction with vulnerable populations. At the time of the test work, registered sex offenders were not employed by any sampled local education agencies, the Utah State Developmental Center, or the Utah State Hospital. However, state child care and foster care licensors do not regularly independently verify that registered sex offenders do not live in homes licensed or approved for foster care, proctor care, or child care.

As a result of test work, the Office discovered that two registered sex offenders lived in homes licensed or approved by the state to provide child care. In addition, provider files do not clearly demonstrate whether at least 12 registered sex offenders—who each share the same address where licensed or approved child care is provided—are restricted from having unsupervised access to children in these facilities. An example of one such facility is an approved child care provider operating in one unit of a five-unit building where registered sex offenders - who each committed felony sex offenses against children- reside in the other four units.

Recommendations made in this report provide straightforward solutions to strengthen controls to prevent registered sex offenders from having unsupervised access to vulnerable populations in state operated or state licensed or approved facilities. More information about the Utah Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry, a public resource, can be found on their [website](#).

The full report may be found on the Office's website, [auditor.utah.gov](http://auditor.utah.gov), specifically at <http://financialreports.utah.gov/saoreports/2015/PA15-02SexOffenderAccesstoVulnerablePopulationsHealth,Departmentof.pdf>.

**About the Office of the Utah State Auditor**

The Office of the Utah State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Utah State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every 4 years. The role of the Utah State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see [auditor.utah.gov](http://auditor.utah.gov).

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