

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Division of Parole and Probation

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GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

PATRICIA A. VALE
DIRECTOR

October 6, 2011

To All COMET Supervisees:

Halloween is a holiday focused almost exclusively on children and the enjoyment they experience wandering through their neighborhoods interacting with neighbors and strangers alike.

The arrival of Halloween, however, can also lead to increased concern among other family members over the safety of their children due, in part, to their awareness of the presence in their neighborhoods of individuals who have been convicted of sexual offenses.

We, in turn, are aware that you probably have concerns of your own about the often negative reactions of your neighbors to the knowledge that you are living among them. It is not as apparent to them, as it is to us, that most of you are genuinely engaged in the difficult task of rebuilding your lives – of finding a stable home, a steady job, and some small measure of peace and happiness.

This holiday provides an opportunity for you to clearly convey that message to the community – to show that you are making a sincere effort to change the direction of your life and thus regain their acceptance. For this reason (as well as for other more practical reasons, including protecting yourself from possible misunderstandings and allegations), we are requiring your commitment to the following approach, which we believe will allow children and their families to enjoy the holiday without undue anxiety:

Please remain at home on Halloween from 6:00 p.m. onward, with your porch lights out and a “No Candy” sign on the door; and do not answer your door to trick-or-treaters.

This commitment on your part represents a quiet but very meaningful contribution to an enjoyable, uneventful Halloween. It will also hopefully convey to the community a more positive message about you than it is likely to get from any other source.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Vale
Acting Director
Maryland Division of Parole and Probation