MANDATORY SHAMING STATUTES 
AND SENSATIONALIZED SHAMING 
OF SEX BUYERS

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This Article analyzes whether current post-arrest releases of offenders’ information is actually an effective deterrent for combating the buying of commercial sex. This Article concludes that the criminal justice system most effectively deters, rehabilitates, and reintegrates sex buyers when shaming techniques target offenders, occur post-conviction, and complement other methods of combatting prostitution. In this way, shaming practices can exist within the criminal justice system without encouraging vigilante justice or the spillover harassment families often experience after the release of identifying information in press releases or news conferences.

Part II discusses the history and constitutionality of shaming tactics, and introduces mandatory shaming provisions used in Pennsylvania and Georgia. Part III compares these statutes and recommends that pre-conviction shaming sanctions minimize sensationalism and emulate used policies.
in Pennsylvania and Georgia to make such sanctions more effective.