

SUPERVISION

OVERVIEW:

Criminal justice practices remain a mystery to many people. Professionals and lay people often do not understand the legal and professional responsibilities faced by probation officers who supervise sex offenders. They may be unaware how the probation officer's authority can be used to control the offender and support treatment. The purpose of this module will be to provide a continuum of supervision strategies that will assist the supervising agent in monitoring the offender living in the community. Many agents may not realize the integral part they play in the management and supervision of sex offenders.

OBJECTIVES:

Participants will understand 10 basic responsibilities probation and parole officers have in supervising sex offenders. They will also understand the continuum of supervision, the various levels of surveillance, supervision, and programming necessary to manage the sex offender within the community.

Containment Supervision Strategy

Pyramid of Supervision

One of the primary differences in managing the sex offender in the community versus other types of offenders in the criminal justice system, is the reliance on a multi disciplinary approach involving a number of agencies, systems, and individuals.

Ultimately, it is the primary goal of treatment, as well as various educational and cajoling processes, that the offender assumes full responsibility for their deviant and illegal behavior. As we all know, just as a tree never bears fruit in the season that it is planted. offenders rarely replace lifelong thought processes; behavior or self-defeating habits overnight either. Sometimes, it takes months, even years for offenders to assume personal responsibility for the lives they have created for themselves. The victim stance that offenders create for themselves is often prolific and entrenched, and is often quite frustrating for corrections and treatment professionals in their dealings with offenders. There are of course, offenders who never accept responsibility for their lives, their behaviors, their attitudes, and have no investment whatsoever, in wanting to become pro-social in their behavior, thoughts, feelings, or attitudes.

While the continuum is vast, let's assume that the offender placed inside the above pyramid, is the offender who is living in the community and is on probation, supervised release, or is under some form of supervision. The offender, who is off the charts on our risk assessment scales, is hopefully residing at Moose Lake, St. Peter, or the most secure unit at Oak Park Heights or MCF-Stillwater.

There have been many debates in the media, in our legislature, throughout all professional circles, as well as the public about the efficacy of various approaches in the management of sexual perpetrators in our society.

We hear cries that we should lock the offenders up, while throwing away the keys, castrate them, kill them, keep them away from their families, ostracize them from the community, or simply, wish they'd go away. We've also heard the debate on whether treatment works, and we've

tossed statistical information back and forth, trying to posture ourselves in one position or another, trying to convince others that our perceptions are right.

Beyond the political and professional rhetoric, one thing is certain. The sexual perpetrator is with us to stay. Our jails, prisons, treatment centers will continue to be filled. They are in no danger of going out of business. Furthermore, over ninety-five percent of these offenders will eventually be released back into the community. This cycle will most certainly continue, at least until our society undergoes a significant cultural reform that will result in all of our children being raised throughout childhood with values, coping skills, and protective factors that will meet all of their needs in pro-social ways. Having them to become healthy, law abiding, and contributing members of the community, at which time, the sexual abuse of others will become extinction.

Until we reach this ideal, the **Containment Supervision Strategy** is seen as a cost effective alternative for protecting the community, reducing recidivism, and for improving the management of the sex offender in the community, both internally as well as externally. This model demonstrates how all of us working together can create a safer society for everyone.

We have found answers to questions like “does treatment work? - how effective is probation? what can the family do?, when do we use the polygraph?, and how much money do we want to spend building more prisons and jails? How can we better protect our women and children, as well as our men in our society?”

We have also learned through our experience and the experience of others that we cannot do it alone. Treatment without external controls is rarely effective. Probation supervision without collaboration with treatment providers, and family systems is at best, marginal. The courts operating without concern for the victims is patronizing, and out of touch. Institutions releasing untreated, unprepared, and angrier inmates are only setting them up to fail. Each dimension and approach within the pyramid has its effectiveness, as well as limitations. All are important and critical for the protection and betterment of our society.

We are finding as we travel this relatively new road of the management of the sex offender, that as each dimension improves its knowledge and increases its experience, they become more analogous to each other. The roles are becoming less distinct and less in conflict with each other. With the similar vision of **no more victims**, we all can make a difference. By working together, we will increase our communication with each other, hold the offender more accountable, and make lasting changes in the individuals, families, and communities that we serve.

**RAMSEY COUNTY DIVISION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
CHECK IN FORM**

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____
last first middle

ADDRESS: _____
street city state zip

PHONE : _____ LIVING WITH: _____

List all employment and sources of income

NAME _____	YES _____	NO _____	NOT ORDERED _____	Treatment Completed
ADDRESS _____	_____	_____	_____	Fines Paid
SUPERVISOR _____	_____	_____	_____	Restitution Paid
PHONE _____	_____	_____	_____	Community Work
Occupation _____	_____	_____	_____	Service Complete
Normal working hours: _____	_____	_____	_____	Contact With Victim
	_____	_____	_____	Supervision Fee Paid

IS YOUR EMPLOYER AWARE OF YOUR OFFENSE? _____ YES _____ NO
ANY CHANGES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION _____ YES _____ NO

=====

Describe since last report, any new developments in your life, relationships, living situations, arrests, health problems, vehicles you own or drive..

Any arrests, convictions or contacts with the police since last report?

YES	NO		YES	NO	
_____	_____	Urges to use or actual use of alcohol or drugs.	_____	_____	Use sexually explicit books, magazines, videos, erotica, etc.?
_____	_____	CYCLE RELATED FANTASIES	_____	_____	Go to adult book stores, strip shows, use of 1-900 numbers?
_____	_____	(ie., justifications, right to abuse, "turn ons")	_____	_____	Masturbate using fantasies of your offense, a victim, or a child?
_____	_____	CYCLE RELATED FEELINGS	_____	_____	Eaten any good since last report?
_____	_____	(ie., rage, loneliness, excitement, boredom)	_____	_____	Attempt to or pay someone for sex?
_____	_____	CYCLE RELATED BEHAVIORS	_____	_____	Do you have access to the internet?
_____	_____	(ie., isolation, secrets, grooming, cruising)	_____	_____	Breathed during last month?
_____	_____	Aggressive related fantasies	_____	_____	Any changes in the number of people who you are living with? if yes, please describe
_____	_____	(ie., thoughts, feelings of harm to others or self)	_____	_____	Used alcohol or drugs? if yes, please describe
_____	_____	Failures or negative experiences	_____	_____	Gambled in any way? if yes, please describe
_____	_____	Successes or positive experiences	_____	_____	
_____	_____	High risk situations exercised	_____	_____	
_____	_____	Engaged in sex with an adult partner?	_____	_____	
_____	_____	Do you have access to a computer at home?	_____	_____	

Using the following scale, how would you rate how your life has been since your last report.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 really sucks really great

DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS YOU WISH TO DISCUSS TODAY?

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

FAILURE TO PROVIDE TRUTHFUL INFORMATION MAY RESULT IN A VIOLATION OF YOUR PROBATION OR SUPERVISED RELEASE

