Coming Home

Transforming Juvenile Sex Offenders from Corrections & Treatment to the Community

Juvenile Sex Offenders

Juvenile sex offenders are defined as a person between the ages of 6 and 17 years old. Juvenile victims are under the age of 18.

Definition of Sexual Abuse

Unwanted sexual contact between two or more adults/minors

Any sexual contact between two minors with a large age difference

Sexual contact between an adult and a minor

Contact initiated by youth towards an adult
Reporting to Authorities

Unfortunately, many sex crimes are not reported to authorities. Various reasons for this include the following:

- Embarrassment & a sense of shame and/or guilt
- Afraid of being humiliated again
- Not wanting to gain attention from the public
- Blame

Victims

- Anyone and everyone can be a victim of sexual assault
- Women and girls are as likely to be victims than men or boys
- 67% of all victims are under the age of 18, and more than half of these victims are under the age of 12
- One in four girls will be assaulted before the age of 18
- One in seven boys will be assaulted before the age of 18
- Statistics may be low due to low level of reports

Most sexual offenses are committed by someone the victim knows.

No Such Thing as a Typical Offender

- Male & female
- Young & old
- Married & single
- Educated & uneducated
- Prior criminal offenses or a clean record
- Wealthy or poor
- Any race or ethnicity
- Reasons for offense will vary, as will what interventions are required to help the offender
- No single factor can explain why someone offends sexually
Once Convicted

- Courts appoint various sentences depending upon State Laws and the facts of the case
- Jail or prison
- Community supervision
- Release with parole or no supervision

Reoffending

- About 12-24% of sex offenders will reoffend
- Some offenders are more likely to reoffend than others
- Professionals use scientifically based assessments to make determinations

Community

Many offenders are able to live within a community with the proper supervision and treatment.

Conditions of Supervision:
- No contact or limited contact
- Limited or no internet access
- Restrictions (work, living, etc.)
- CPS (typically high-risk, in the approach is costly)
- Treatment/therapy
Registration

- Helps law enforcement to identify information about convicted sex offenders
- Allows for citizens to find information about registered sex offenders
- Some will have to register for ten years, while others may have to for life
- Community notification allows for community members to have access to information about sex offenders in the area. The level of risk an offender presents will affect how the community is notified.

Juvenile Sex Offenders

Juvenile sex offenders make up roughly 20% of those arrested for sex offenses. More than 90% are male. Most of juveniles who are charged for committing sex offenses do not commit more crimes. Juveniles who go to treatment are even less likely to commit more sex offenses. Supervision allows for support of the juveniles. Case managers can help with coping mechanisms, rearing out of schools, family and community members, and working with those who are responsible for juvenile offenders.

Juvenile Risk Factors

- Responsibilities that come along with emerging adulthood
- Brain development in areas that impact problem solving, morals, & personality
- Cooperation with supervision
- Quality of support and relationships with friends/family
- Sexual self-regulation
- Social isolation
Management

- Engage legislators to promote policies
- Stable living situation
- Engage the public
- Investing in successful methods
- Assessment process that is continuous and effective
- Re-assess needs on a regular basis
- Meet with family members/therapists/peers to discuss particular needs
- Compliant with court orders and prevention planning

Criminal Sex Laws

Fifth Degree – Guilty if the person:
Engages in nonconsensual physical contact
Or
If the person displays or exhibits genitalia with a minor present

(Minnesota State Laws)

Criminal Sex Laws

Fourth Degree
The complainant is under thirteen years of age and actor is no more than thirty-six months older. These charges typically involve a victim who was unable to consent or vulnerable. Statutory rape cases will usually fall into this category.
Criminal Sex Laws

Third Degree
Similar to first degree in that it requires sexual penetration, but charges are described as aggravated contact rather than assault resulting in injuries.

Criminal Sex Laws

Second Degree
Does not require penetration but instead sexual contact. This charge is severe in that it involves violence, force, use of a weapon, and threat of violence. Charges may also be brought if the victim was extremely young or unable to consent.

Criminal Sex Laws

First Degree
First degree criminal sexual conduct is considered the most severe in the state of Minnesota. This charge involves penetration and also includes specific sexual contact with a victim who is under the age of 13. May also be brought up if violence, force, or any other related injuries occurred.
Methods For Assessment

- ERASOR - Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism
  This is a tool used by clinicians to assess whether or not a juvenile has a short-term risk of re-offending. Used on offenders ages 12-18.

- JSOAP-II - Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol
  This tool was designed to be used with boys ages 12-18 who have a history of sexually offending.

- SCS NFRS - Sex Offense-Specific Treatment Needs & Progress Scale
  This is a progress scale for youth who are going through treatment.

Sources

- Minnesota Scale Line
- COSO: Center for Sex Offender Management: Fact Sheet: What You Need to Know About Sex Offenders.