

**GUIDELINES FOR
SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT
IN THE CHURCH**

WHERE DOES THE
**SECOND
GLANCE
GO?**

THE PROCESS OF PERSONAL PURITY

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GUIDELINES FOR SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT IN THE CHURCH

Table of Contents

Preface	1
Introduction	2
The Presence of Sex Offenders in Society and At What Rate Do They Re-offend?	3-4
The Presence of Sex Offenders in the Church.....	5-12
The Major Issues Sex Offenders Face	13-15
The Need to Manage Sex Offenders	16-17
Dealing with the Church and It's Leadership.....	18
Establishing a Framework for Effective Supervision in the Church.....	19-20
Overview of Key Elements	
The Wants, Needs and Desires of the Victim Should Always Come First.....	21-22
The Structure of Your Program And The People Who Should Be Involved In The Process	23-26
Supervision and Management of Offenders	
Ultimately, Who Do We Allow To Attend?.....	27
How Do We Monitor Them? The Safety Plan	28-29
An Offenders Legal Status and How It Affects Their Involvement With Us ..	30-34
Juvenile Offenders	
The Supervision of Juvenile Offenders	35
Conclusion.....	36

PREFACE

I have written this paper with a few simple goals in mind. I have done everything in my power to inform the Body of Christ about the magnitude of the problems and issues we face when it comes to dealing with the presence of sex offenders in society and the rate at which they re-offend. It has been my desire to attempt to define the scope and nature of their presence in the church. No studies have ever been done with regards to the presence of sex offenders in the church or where they are coming from.

I will discuss some trends which seem to be emerging in the church that may help us understand what seems to be influencing these people. I have never seen a church that has sex offenders in their congregations or groups that have a clear, concise program in place to effectively supervise them. With this in mind, I have discussed the need to supervise them bluntly and in great length.

My goal is to help you create a simple frame work and structure which will enable you to create and implement a successful sex offender management program in your organization.

I have identified the people on your staff who will need to be involved as well as some key elements that will act as the foundation of your programs success. Simply stated, what you are going to hear me say is every sex offender of any type or age **who is a part of your group** or congregation, need to have a clear, concise safety plan in **place before they become a part of your congregation.** As I define some of the key elements of a basic safety plan, you will see me identify certain groups of offenders who should never be unattended while on church property. NOT EVER!!! Some of these would include multiple and violent offenders. You will see I put all juvenile offenders in this class as well. The rest should have a safety plan which requires them to check in and out as they come and go from your facility. Every plan should contain clear, concise guidelines which clearly define how sex offenders safely interact with your congregation and how your congregation safely interacts with them. I only quote four reference sources throughout this article. They are as follows.

“My goal is to help you create a simple frame work and structure which will enable you to create and implement a successful sex offender management program in your organization.”

1. Center for Sex Offender Management, (1999). Understanding Juvenile Sex Offender Behavior: Emerging Research, Treatment Approaches and Management Practices.
2. Center For Sex Offender Management, (2000). Community Supervision of the Sex Offender: An Overview of Current and Promising Practices.
3. Center For Sex Offender Management, (2002). An Overview of Sex Offender Management.
4. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, (2005) Uniform Crime Report.

I would recommend reading all of these documents. If you send us your email address I would be happy to make them available to you electronically free of charge. The entire “Body Of Christ” owes a great debt to the Center For Sex Offender Management, U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI for all of the work they have done to help protect us from those who would try to harm us.

GUIDELINES FOR SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT IN THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

I know the statements I have made about the presence of Sex Offenders in the church has caused a lot of discussion as well as some controversy. I am aware the statements I have made may seem dramatic and alarmist in nature to some people. I can assure you I am well aware of the nature of the statements I have made. I had every intention of raising this flag as high in the sky as humanly possible. The reality of the situation, is the church has not done the greatest job when it comes to dealing with the sexually-oriented issues and problems that have come to exist in the church over the last ten years. There have been very few churches that have openly acknowledged and dealt with these issues as a whole. It would not be an exaggeration to say, the church has largely been in denial with regards to the scope and nature of the sexually-oriented issues and problems which face the church today. You would be shocked to know the number of sexual incidents in the church that have been ignored or covered-up in the last ten years. I have heard more stories of harm and cover-ups than I can remember. At times the cover-ups have been calculated and extraordinary in nature. Harm has come to every element of the church, young as well as mature in age, including church staff and congregation. Much of what has taken place makes what happened in the Catholic Church, appear petty in nature. Yes, some of the incidents I am referring to have included abuse of youth and children. The potential legal liability alone should scare us to death. Satan has deceived Elder boards all over the country into believing it is better to offer payoffs and to carry out elaborate schemes to cover-up the problems than to confront these issues head on in the Body of Christ. I fear the enemy will use the secrets we keep to bring us to a point of spiritual bondage that could spiritually cripple the church. The lies we have perpetrated to cover our sin could bring us to a point where we disqualify ourselves from God's blessings. The truth is we need to openly and honestly before the Lord evaluate how we have handled sexually-oriented issues and problems in the church. Hiding these problems only serves to perpetuate harm in the Body of Christ. Unfortunately, one of the things I have learned when it comes to dealing with these issues is; **a person's willingness to act to protect themselves, their families and churches with regards to these issues, is directly related to how bad they perceive the problem to be.** If we continue to act as though nothing is happening, people will not perceive a need to act to protect themselves, their families and churches, with regards to these issues.

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THE PRESENCE OF SEX OFFENDERS IN SOCIETY AND AT WHAT RATE DO THEY RE-OFFEND?

Dealing with the presence of sex offenders in society and in the church is quickly becoming one of the most difficult issues of our times. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has quoted the Bureau of Justice Statistics by stating, "**There are 566,787 sex offenders in our country.**" This number reflects the fact that the number of sex offenders who are under the control of correctional agencies across our country has more than doubled over the last ten years. The statistics I have seen indicate that, at any given time, we don't know where between 80,000 and 150,000 of them are. The Justice Department's website says, "sex offenders have a high-risk of re-offending." After studying these issues at length I would submit to you that no one, including myself, knows what the true recidivism rate of "sex offenders" is. Accurately measuring the rate at which sex offender's recidivate is difficult. This is largely due to four factors:

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1. There are many types of sexually-oriented crimes including rape, pedophilia, and voyeurism, etc. These crimes are being committed by a diverse demographic of people including young, old, male, female, mentally-impaired, etc. To lump these crimes and groups of offenders together would produce statistics that would be misleading and at best an inaccurate representation of the situation.
2. Defining what constitutes re-offending is difficult to do. Does recidivism occur at the point of investigation, re-arrest, filing of new sex offense charges, point of plea-bargain or conviction? It's important to note there is very little, if any consistency in the studies that have been done with regards to defining the point of re-offense. The end result of this is rates of recidivism vary dramatically.
3. It is generally accepted in the law enforcement community that sexually-oriented crimes are the most widely underreported crimes in society. The Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) reports that only 32% (one out of three) sexual assaults against persons 12 or older are reported to law enforcement. One study of 4008 adult women found that 84% of the respondents identified themselves as, rape victims who did not report their assault to authorities. CSOM (2002) reports there are no current studies to indicate the rate of reporting with regards to sexual assault of children. It is generally assumed that these assaults are equally under-reported as well.
4. The fourth problem is an observation of my own; I do believe it would be a great topic of discussion in the professional community. The studies being used to determine recidivism rates and to create the paradigms for sex offender management are out-dated at best. I have seen papers making recommendations based on information taken from studies completed in 1973. The newest study I have seen quoted by any reliable source was completed in 2000.

With all of this said, I do believe it would be helpful to report these findings:

- CSOM reports that from 1980-1992 the number of imprisoned sex offenders has grown by more than 7% per year.
- Two-thirds of all prisoners convicted of rape or sexual assault had committed their crime against a child (Bureau of Justice Statistics report 1991).
- CSOM reports a Hanson and Harris study in 1998; the study involved 400 sex offenders under community supervision from 1992-1997; approximately 50% were charged or convicted of a new sexually-oriented crime while under community supervision.
- The California Department of Corrections reports 50% of all sex offenders are back in prison within a year; within 2 years 77% are back in prisons.
- CSOM reports a Prentky, Lee, Knight, and Cerce study in 1997 which found that over a 25 year period child molesters had a higher rate of re-offense than rapists; 52% verses 39% over a twenty-five year period of time.

"The average pedophile has molested 300 children before being caught."

- In the 1990's the FBI was quoted as saying, **"The average pedophile has molested 300 children before being caught."** I must tell you, until recently I had never seen any information supporting these claims. Information generated through polygraph examinations on a sample of imprisoned sex offenders, with fewer than two known victims (on average); found that these offenders actually had an average of 110 victims and 318 offenses (Ahlmyer, Heil, McKee, and English, 2000).

- Another Polygraph study found a sample of imprisoned sex offenders to have extensive criminal histories, committing sex crimes for an average of 16 years before being caught (Ahlmyer, English, and Simons, 1999).
- Hunter and Figueredo (1999) found that 50% of the youths entering community based treatment programs were expelled during the first year of their participation.

You will notice the studies and statistics I have quoted are, in most cases, over seven years old. One of the biggest problems we face when dealing with these issues is that sexual trends and behaviors that are being mainstreamed into society are changing constantly. Society's sexual trends and behaviors are changing so fast it is almost impossible to study them accurately. The internet and all the communication technologies it offers has given people the ability to exchange ideas and information in a way we have never seen before. What we learn through scientific study today about the trends and behaviors of the last few years may be behaviorally and technologically obsolete. The information gleaned from studies yesterday may not even be pertinent today. I am willing to assert this is especially true when quoting and attempting to apply any statistics which are pre-2002 in comparison to today's circumstances. Our ability to care for people who are struggling with sexually-oriented issues and bring accountability to addicts and supervision to offenders is only as good as our knowledge of current technologies, trends and behaviors.

THE PRESENCE OF SEX OFFENDERS IN THE CHURCH

It is important to point out there have never been any studies done which would tell us how many sexual offenders currently attend our nation's churches. **Unfortunately what we do know as far as social trends and behaviors are concerned is that people who attend church tend to perform statistically in the same manner as people who do not.** It would be naïve to assume dealing with sexual offenders would be any different. I would assert there are four emerging, identifiable groups of sexual offenders in the church.

Unfortunately what we do know as far as social trends and behaviors are concerned is that people who attend church tend to perform statistically in the same manner as people who do not.

1. We must acknowledge the fact there are many people who come from Christian backgrounds that for whatever reason at some point in their lives commit sexually-oriented crimes and become incarcerated. Also, there are a lot of great ministries all over the country caring for the spiritual needs of our nation's prison populations. As a result of these efforts there are many sexual offenders who come to Christ during their period of incarceration. Upon their release many of these people turn to local churches to continue their spiritual walk. It is important to note, most sex offenders' parole or treatment guidelines prohibit them from being anywhere near those they might have a tendency to offend. Clearly this could make going to church very difficult for sex offenders. We must understand any offender who would ask to be allowed to go where potential victims might be would immediately be scrutinized by the people overseeing their parole and treatment. The scrutiny would be greater if children were involved. The fear of this scrutiny alone might keep some offenders from asking if they can go to church at all. It is important to know that after offenders serve out their initial parole period they may or may not be allowed to do as they please. It may be a condition of their release that they are not allowed go where potential victims' might be. I will address this issue more extensively later in this document.
2. Another problem we face is the presence of pedophiles in the church. We have all been shocked by the high and increasing number of reports we are hearing about pedophiles across our country who are molesting, kidnapping, and at times violently sexually-molesting as well as murdering our children. One of the main topics of discussion across our country over the last year has been the Dateline NBC exposes that have been done in nine cities. Dateline NBC, in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies set up stings in nine cities. They were attempting to catch pedophiles who were online seeking to contact children and teenagers with the intent of meeting them to have sexual relationships. **In a nine-day period of time in five cities they caught and arrested 130 pedophiles; one of them twice in a 48-hour period. These included Lawyers, Doctors, Rabbis, Pastors, Youth Leaders and Teachers. It seemed as though every element of society was represented in the over 200 people who were arrested and charged.**

It has been shocking and overwhelming to us as a society that large numbers of our female teachers are being arrested and charged for molesting our children. In Union Bridge, Maryland a 25 year old female middle school teacher pleaded guilty to various charges for having numerous sexual encounters with at least 9 of her students, sometimes several in one night. The most recent case I've heard about involved a female teacher who was arrested and charged with 23 counts of sex acts with a child, all of her victims were 13 years old. The question clearly becomes why is this happening and where are these people coming from? There are no hard science studies available to tell us definitively why these things are happening. The statistical information clearly shows us there has been a dramatic increase in the number of sexually-oriented crimes being committed against children in this country. It is clear these crimes have become less age and gender biased in nature. Also, I want to make it clear as I address these issues, I have no intention of trying to provide you with an in-depth clinical presentation on the psychological factors that influence pedophilia. Historically, the factors influencing pedophilia are too complex and extensive in nature to discuss in any one-setting. I do believe however, there are some historical facts we can discuss and environmental influences we can identify which will help us understand these issues and how they are affecting the church.

I believe one of the most identifiable sexually-oriented issues affecting society today is that we have seen a complete breakdown of the taboo with regards to sexual relationship and age. Over the last ten years it has become acceptable and common place for people of all ages in our society to have sexual interaction. This includes those who are young with those who are mature in age. I am sorry to report this includes children down to the ages of 8, 9 and 10 years of age. One only needs to turn on the television to see this is true. It is common in after-school programming to see children as young as the fourth and fifth grade being portrayed in sexually-oriented situations. They are asking each other questions like, "Do you think he or she is hot," or "Do you think he will try to kiss me."

I believe one of the most identifiable sexually-oriented issues affecting society today is that we have seen a complete breakdown of the taboo with regards to sexual relationship and age.

Recently, I saw one show, that involved a scene with a sixth-grade boy in a science class with a young twenty-something woman as the teacher. In the next scene, they show the boy having a fantasy about the teacher seductively pulling off her glasses and letting down her long blonde hair and aggressively enticing the boy in a sexual manner. Unfortunately, over the years we have seen some behavior with regards to sex and age become extreme and perverse in nature. One of the most common questions I get asked with regards to the first edition of my series "Where Does the Second Glance Go" has to do with the existence of the North American Man/Boy Love Association. (NAMBLA) While I don't mention the group in the second edition of the series, groups such as these do warrant mention in this forum. According to the group's website, NAMBLA call's for the abolition of age-of consent laws which prevent men and boys from freely enjoying their bodies. They also call for the release of all men and boys imprisoned by such laws. NAMBLA believes men who have been incarcerated for child molestation are being held as political prisoners based on their sexual preference of having sex with underage boys.

Before NAMBLA's website was driven underground, you could go online and sign up to be the pen-pal of a political prisoner who was being held for having sex with an under-age boy. You could even send them a Christmas card. Pressure from well-known public figures like Bill O'Reilly of the O'Reilly Factor and Oprah have caused NAMBLA's website basically to go underground. To get on their website today you have to go to a splash page that say's "Welcome to a World of Pleasure". You can join the club or even buy a t-shirt. While NAMBLA has been driven somewhat under-ground, groups like International Pedophile and Child Emancipation (IPCE) still have websites completely out in the open for public viewing. Currently the IPCE website is available in four languages; German, French, Spanish and English. Unfortunately, women are not exempt from this type of behavior. There are two such groups I know of, "Butterfly Kisses International Female Girlove Collective" and "The Girl Love Garden," both operating out in the open on the Internet. The Girl Love Gardens Mission Statement say's, "Girl Love Garden's mission is to provide a forum for dialogue about issues of interest to Girl Lovers and to become a host for a broad variety of Web Pages created by Girl Lovers. And it is hoped, as we work toward this goal that our resource will rapidly grow in popularity and strive to achieve a better understanding of our quest for the emancipation of girls of all ages and 'girl love,' in general." I know it is hard to believe that these groups exist. There have been times when investigation has shown they often boast membership in the thousands. **At this point I am willing to assert there are no more taboos with regards to sexual relationship and age in our society.** The younger people are, the more likely this is to be true.

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As I continue this discussion, I know the statements I am making are very general in nature. Historically if someone was involved in some form of pedophilia prior to the 1990's there was something that happened in their life, some kind of sexual trauma or abuse that brought them to a point where they acted out in this manner; or they had some form of diagnosable psychosis that caused them to behave in this manner.

Prior to the 1990's if someone were involved with child pornography it meant you had access to a seedy underworld that could provide you with this type of material. This was especially true after 1982. In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court in a case called, Ferber vs. New York made it illegal to possess, pander or distribute all forms of child pornography in this country. If you were to talk to the prosecutors who worked in the Justice Department during the Reagan Administration, they would tell you they had prosecuted virtually all of the child pornography off the open market during this time. In the 1990's with the advent of the Internet, we have seen the development of a mass underground of Child Porn distribution network on the Internet. Last year something happened we hadn't seen in a while, Representatives from the FBI and the Justice Department testified before the Commerce Committee in Congress. The Commerce Committee asked them today, **"What do you think the prevalence of Child Porn on the Internet is?"**

Before I give you their answer I want to give you some information that will act as a starting point to help you put the magnitude of their statements into perspective. Almost 14 years ago when I first started dealing with these issues, the FBI believed Pornography as a whole was an 8 to 10 billion dollar a year industry in our country. Last Spring, in this hearing one of the Assistant Directors of the FBI testified that he believed Child Porn alone on the Internet had become a 20-billion dollar a year industry in our country. When they asked him about the number of Child Porn websites available on the Internet he testified in this manner.

“If you go on the main search engines which are available today and you search the five to seven main terms and phrases pedophiles are using to find pictures of children on the Internet, you will see there are between 130,000 to 150,000 sites available on each of these 5 to 7 main terms and phrases.” He also testified there were 90 countries in the world that do not have laws making Child Porn illegal and that 80% of the Child Porn in the world comes from the United States.

The end result of this is ordinary people are having mass access to this material in ways we have never seen before. We are hearing stories about people all over the world using Child Porn and getting caught in investigations. On February 11, 2007, Austrian authorities announced that they had busted a global child porn ring involving 2360 suspects’ world wide. Austria’s Interior Minister Guenther Platter said the FBI was investigating 600 people in the United States alone. Harald Gremel, an Austrian Internet crime expert said, girls up to 14 years old “could be seen being raped, and you could also hear screams.” One bust in the United States involved people in 13 states. What made this so unusual was they were molesting the children and broadcasting it live, in real time, over the Internet. The end result of the mass availability of this type of pornography is just like any other form of pornographic material we are seeing people becoming addicted to. The typical story I have heard in churches across the country would go as follows. “I was searching for pornography on the Internet and saw a listing that said young women. I clicked on the listing and liked what I saw so the next time I searched for porn I started by searching for young women. After doing this a few times I saw a listing that said young teen girls, I thought they might be 18 or 19 years old so I clicked on the link. The next thing I knew I was clicking search links that said things like young girls, or young virgin sluts.” I knew one Christian man who got on a Child Porn website and got on a chat room. He was asked by a man if he wanted to exchange pictures of young girls. When he got busted he had over 600 images of young girls on his computer. The police came to his home and arrested him in front of his wife and 16 year old daughter. This man could be seen in any church in America and no one would think anything about it. It would not be an exaggeration to say I hear stories like this everywhere I go. During one of my recent visits to a major city, I heard reports about pedophiles in four prominent churches I visited. Two of the churches had one pedophile, one had two and the other had three pedophiles that were a part of their congregations. They were what seemed to be solid Christian men who all had stories like I mentioned above. The stories like these that I have heard have become too numerous to remember or mention. The number of Christian men across this country that fit this exact model would boggle your mind.

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3. The third group of Sex Offenders and Child Predators we must deal with in the church is **adolescent males and females between the ages of 10 and 17 years of age**. Juvenile sex offenders are separated into two main categories, sex offenders and Child Predators. While laws do vary from state to state, in most states, a juvenile sex offender is "someone who commits their crime against someone who is older than themselves or no more than four-years younger than themselves." A Child Predator is "someone who is 17 years old or younger and commits their crime against someone who is at least five years younger than themselves."

The Department of Justice does keep forcible rape and sex offense arrest statistics on perpetrators who are under the age of ten. In 2005, there were 12 forcible rape and 303 sex offense arrests of children under the age of ten in the United States (FBI, 2005). Traditionally the cases of children under the age of ten are handled outside the Juvenile Justice System. CSOM states, "The prevalence of sexual abuse perpetrated by youth has increased in recent years." **It estimates that Juveniles account for up to one-fifth of all rapes and approximately one-half of all cases of child molestations committed each year in the United States (CSOM, 2002)**. I have seen anecdotal reports that say half of the one-half of the child molestations being committed by juveniles each year are now being committed by girls. FBI Crime report statistics from 2005 state, "females under the age of 18 accounted for only 9% of all sexually oriented crimes" (FBI, 2005). I have never seen any reliable statistics with regards to the percentage of child molestations that juvenile females are responsible for each year. **This 9% figure does represent a 26.4% increase in sexually-oriented crimes that are have been committed by females over the last ten years. While juvenile male prostitution rates have fallen 33.3% over the last ten years, juvenile female prostitution rates have gone up over 59% (FBI, 2005)**. It is important to note that in the grand scheme of things, 2005 was a pretty good year with regards to juveniles who committed sexual offenses. In 2003, there were 4456 more juveniles arrested for sexually-oriented crimes than in 2005 (FBI, 2003). I am sad to say, over the last three years I have heard an endless stream of stories about teenagers and kids in the church. Before I go further I want you to know that in the last year, I have begun to hear stories about children as young as 8, 9, and 10 years old acting out in the manner I am about to describe. Simply stated, this is the common story I hear; "good Christian kids" between the ages of 10 and 14 are going on line and becoming addicted to the worst of the worst pornographic material available on the Internet. Because they don't have the social skills or boundaries in place to cope with what they are seeing, in some, but not all cases, they are acting out by committing some of the worst sexually-oriented crimes being committed in America today. I do hear stories about teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17 but for some reason I tend to hear more about kids between 10 and 14 years old.

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Some would go as follows; 14 year old boy violently rapes a younger sister; 14 year old boy molests 7 kids in the church nursery by masturbating in front of them; 15 year old molests his father's fiancé's 6 year old daughter by performing oral sex on her; 14 year old boy molests 12 year old sister by fondling her; male high school senior commits two sexual assaults and one rape; 12 year old daughter of a pastor commits child porn crime by sending full frontal naked pictures of herself to five 12 year old boys in her youth group saying, "I have had oral sex but would like to have intercourse, the first one who responds gets to have me." I could go on for pages but won't. I know these kinds of reports can be shocking. The reality is none of what I am saying would be a shock to you if you talked to Youth Pastors across our country. **One Youth Pastor I interviewed recently told me he surveyed a group of 85 eighth graders who were a part of his group. Every one of them stated they had struggled with pornography online and masturbation in the last year.** The biggest problem we face when dealing with the problem of juvenile sex offenders in society and the church is that research in these areas is limited and clearly lacking.

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4. The fourth group of sex offenders in the church is "People in a Position of Trust." There are two distinct groups that would fall under this heading. The first and probably the most well-known would be people who are in contact with or work directly with minors. The second would be people who are in a position to take on counseling relationships within the church or para-church ministries. I will start by dealing with those who are working with or in contact with minors. The problem we face when dealing with this group of offenders is the laws governing their behavior change constantly and varies dramatically from state to state. Also, how these laws are enforced varies greatly, based on how investigating officers and prosecutors respond to a specific incident. Simply stated, they may decide to vigorously pursue prosecution or they may choose to let the offender walk away. Based on the severity of the crime, or a prosecutor's case load or mood, I have seen both of these things happen. It is important that you as a pastor or elder have a complete understanding of the laws in your state. Also, it would be helpful for you to understand how aggressively your local city attorneys and county prosecutors are when it comes to dealing with these crimes. **Let me say I have never seen a state where it is legal for a person in a position of trust to be involved sexually with anyone in their care.**

Generally speaking, around our country the laws might look as follows:

1. It is illegal for someone 18 years old to be involved sexually with anyone under the age of 18. This would be a very old school type of law but they do remain in existence. I have seen states where laws like this exist but the prosecutors in the area will tell you if the people involved are less than 5 years apart in age, and the adult is not in a position of trust, and if the sex acts were consensual they will not prosecute.

2. A minor who is 16 or 17 years old can consent to sexual activity with someone who is up to 5 years older than themselves, unless the person they are involved with are in a position of trust in their life. This means a 16 year old can have sexual involvement with a 21 year old. And a 17 year old person can consent to sexual activity with someone who is up to 22 years old.

3. A minor who is 16 or 17 years old can consent to sexual activity with someone who is up to 10 years older than themselves, unless the person they are involved with is in a position of trust in their life. This means a 16 year old can have sexual involvement with a 26 year old. And a 17 year old person can consent to sexual activity with someone who is 27 years old. I have seen states where laws like this exist but the prosecutors in the area will tell you if the minor is under 16 years of age, and the people involved are less than 5 years apart in age and the sex acts were consensual they will not prosecute.

I know this sounds crazy but it is true. **The bottom line of what is happening is there are so many cases of adults having consensual sex with minors there are too many to prosecute.** Many states have addressed this problem by making their laws more lenient. If you run across a law that doesn't

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sound something like this, let me know, I would like to hear about it. I know I have told you I have never seen a state where it is legal in any way for a person in a position of trust to have sex with a minor. Why then would I go to the trouble to say what I just have? Over the years I have seen cases where prosecutors elect not to prosecute a crime that involve people in a position of trust if they feel the minor was the aggressor in the relationship or those involved are not operating outside of the guidelines mentioned above. With all of this said, my advice is report every crime and let the chips fall where they may. How you obtain the information about the laws

in your state is very important. I would suggest you go directly to your local city attorney or county prosecutor and ask them what the laws are. **DO NOT, I REPEAT, DO NOT take the word of an attorney in your congregation.** It would be wise to take an attorney with you to help you understand what you are being told, but don't act on their word alone. The biggest cover-up attempts and honest mistakes I have ever seen all started with the statement "our lawyers have told us."

Recently I heard a story about a Senior Pastor who began a meeting with his paid and volunteer youth staff, with this exact statement. Before he got through with the meeting he had given over ten people knowledge of a sexually- oriented crime involving a minor with a person in a position of trust. He told them their lawyers said they did not have to report the crime. At that point if they did not report the crime, everyone who was in the meeting was guilty of a crime. In the state in which this incident took place, the law in 2004 stated, "A person who is sixteen years old can consent to sexual activity with someone who is up to five years older than themselves," unless the person they are involved with is in a position of trust in their life. In 2005, the law in their state had been changed to state. "

A person 16 or 17 years old may consent to sexual activity with someone who is up to ten years older than themselves," unless the person they are involved with is a person in a position of trust in their life. The Lawyer had no knowledge of or chose to ignore the laws governing those in a position of trust. By the way the prosecutors chose not to prosecute the adult in this case because the 16 year old minor was the aggressor and the adult who was 24 was less than ten years older than the minor. I would suggest you ask your city attorney or county prosecutor to help you gain access to copies of these statutes for your files. Make notes of your conversations with the city attorney or prosecutor. These notes should

**I WOULD
SUGGEST
YOU DO THIS
ON A
YEARLY
BASIS!!!!**

include time and date of the conversation, as well as the name and position of the person you were talking to. Make notes regarding the time and date on which you acquired the copies of the statutes. Put the notes and statutes in a file. **I WOULD SUGGEST YOU DO THIS ON A YEARLY BASIS!!!!** Taking these measures will show you have done due diligence with regards to these issues. If you have an incident in your church or group, go back to the prosecutor and ask them if the laws have changed.

The second group would be people who are in a position to take on counseling relationships within the church or para-church ministries. Over the last 25 years I have heard an endless supply of stories about people who are in a counseling position entering into sexual relationships with those whom they are counseling. It is time we started calling people who use their position for sexual gain what they are, "sexual predators." I have heard so many stories about pastors and counselors violating these relationships, it is ridiculous! Some of the biggest lawsuits I have ever heard of come about as a result of this kind of problem. I have heard of a few cases where churches were prosecuted for criminal negligence because they had counselors who were not adequately credentialed or supervised. I will discuss both of these groups in a more extensive manner later in this document. I hope by now you can begin to see the importance of having policy and procedure in place that protects both our staffs and those we are ministering to. I will close this section with this statement, **"If you have knowledge of a crime, report it."** Come completely clean with the authorities. Care for those involved, and let the courts do what they are going to do. Never try to cover up a crime. If the courts get the slightest hint or it EVEN JUST LOOKS like you are they will slam you. In every case I have seen the court call ignorance negligence. **Please, do your due diligence!!!!!!**

WHERE DOES THE
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FOUR MAJOR ISSUES SEX OFFENDERS FACE

Before we discuss the need to manage sex offenders I feel it would be helpful to discuss some of the major issues they face. These issues are part of their treatment and management process that dramatically impacts their lives. The main issues I will discuss will probably only be solved through legislation and lawsuits that will end up going all the way to the U.S. Supreme court to be resolved. Also, the offenders who complain or file the suits are going to have to be willing to sit in jail while their cases run through the courts. As I have mentioned, we have seen an increase in sexually-oriented crime in our country. As these crimes are becoming more heinous in nature the public has rightly demanded action from our officials which would protect the general public. The end result of this is there are many things happening across this country to sex offenders in their adjudication, treatment and management process that are abusive and potentially unconstitutional in nature. As I bring these issues forward, I hope you will see my only motive in writing this paper is a true love of all people in the Body of Christ. **While I have a burning desire to protect our children and families from harm, I possess an equal desire to minister to sex offenders in a way which will best put them in a place to be successful.** This way, they have the greatest possible chance of having a life changing experience through Christ. Trust me when I say, this is the only possible way sex offenders might ever truly be less likely to re-offend.

While I have a burning desire to protect our children and families from harm, I possess an equal desire to minister to sex offenders in a way which will best put them in a place to be successful.

1. As we all are aware the cost of a competent legal defense can be high and is for some, impossible to attain. Finding lawyers who are competent in the area of sex offender defense is difficult to do. The outcome of this can be tragic in nature for offenders, their families and the general public. I have seen numerous cases where offenders are railroaded through the system. When this happens they are less likely to ever be in a place where they can be effectively rehabilitated. The right attorney will be able to put them on a path which would best put them in a place where they receive the right help within the system. I very rarely see offenders with adequate representation. The outcome of this is always tragic.
2. Sentencing has become one of the most effective tools law enforcement has with regard to the supervision and management of sex offenders. As the court systems have become more creative with their sentencing process the constitutionality of some of these sentences has been called into question. The “ten years to life” sentences, which have become common in my state, are the best example of this type of sentencing I know of.

Basically what has happened, is courts are sentencing offenders in a way that if they get out on parole and those managing their treatment feel they have become a threat or that they are not compliant, they might be put back in jail for the remainder of their ten year sentence. If they actually violate the program or re-offend they could end up going back to prison for life. They don't have to actually violate the program or commit a crime to go back to jail. The people running the program just have to say they have become a threat or are not compliant to go back to jail. If someone complains about their treatment stringently enough they could be found in actual violation of their program and parole and be sent back to prison for life. It is possible this could all happen without them actually physically violating their safety programs or committing a crime. When the programs are run by competent honest people I personally don't have a problem with this. The constitutionality of these types of actions and sentences' has yet to be determined. These types of sentences have become the foundation for serious abuse of sexual offenders and their families.

What is taking place is most offenders are getting out on parole after three or four years. This means they have up to the ten years left on their sentence. The terms of their parole often mandate they take part in intensive management and treatment programs for up to the ten years. These treatment programs are run by private court approved treatment providers. The offenders usually have to pay for all of their own treatment. As I have stated if during this time those managing their treatment feel the offender has become a threat or are not compliant they could be put back in jail for the remainder of their ten year sentence. **As you can see this puts those in control of their treatment in a position of unbelievable power in an offender's life.** The abuses I have seen have been serious. Every abuse I have seen starts with the offenders being threatened with the possibility of being sent back to prison for life. They all have ended up with someone paying for more treatment in a program. I saw the parents of one young man be made to pay for twice weekly counseling at \$75.00 an hour for a year and a half, if they wanted to have visitation with their son. Trust me when I say they were not paying for something that was justified by their bad action or son's lack of compliance. Out of fear of not being able to see their son and fear of retaliation against him they went and paid. I once knew a fourteen year old girl who was in a court mandated stay in a halfway house. The only way the girls could graduate from the program was to receive the approval from those who ran the program. One of the people who ran the house was making the girls perform sex acts on him. If they refused they were written up for bogus non-compliance issues and made to stay in the program.

As you can see this puts those in control of their treatment in a position of unbelievable power in an offender's life.

3. Clearly one of the greatest problems sex offenders face is there is no appeal process in place if they feel they are being unfairly treated or abused by their treatment program. If they do complain they could end up sitting in jail. If the Courts are going to demand offenders take part in privately run programs, there by law, needs to be an appropriate system of appeal in place. Especially when those who are running the programs are earning their living treating offenders and money is being made. It seems as though some of the people who are providing treatment are abusive crooks and they need to be stopped. Unfortunately the fear of spending life in prison will probably keep this problem from being addressed.

4. The vast majority of treatment programs around the country are being run by non-Christian people. Many of them could easily be characterized as openly anti-Christian. Many offenders are being told they will not be able to go to church or are being made to jump through unbelievable hoops to do so. This is happening for two reasons. Some of the programs are just anti-Christian and they make it next to impossible for offenders to earn and keep the right to go. The second reason is entirely the church's blame. **By and large the professional system has very little respect for the church community because they don't understand the need to manage sex offenders in their midst.** Having clear, concise policy and procedure which governs how your church interacts with sex offenders and how they safely interact with you is paramount. Having a strong sex offender committee and management plan in place may increase the likelihood of supervising authorities allowing an offender to attend your church. The legal issues here are clear. For someone to be told they can't go to church would directly interfere with their right of religious expression. To my knowledge there has never been a specific case where a sex offender has sued for the right to go to church. Sadly they are going to have to be willing to face the threat of going back to jail to do so. If proper policy, procedure and safety plans are in place they should immediately be able to go to church!!!!

By and large the professional system has very little respect for the church community because they don't understand the need to manage sex offenders in their midst.

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THE NEED TO MANAGE SEX OFFENDERS

Hopefully by now you see and understand the need to have effective policy and procedure in place that governs how sex offenders safely interact with your congregations. As I mentioned, by and large, the professional system has very little respect for the church community because they don't understand the need to manage sex offenders in their midst. Having clear, concise policy and procedure which governs how your church interacts with sex offenders and how they safely interact with you is paramount. Having a strong sex offender committee and management plan in place may increase the likelihood of supervising authorities allowing an offender to attend your church. Sex Offenders do re-offend. I know I have stated no one really knows what the true actual recidivism rate of any one group of sex offenders might be. I do want to tell you what I believe. Most practitioners say sex offenders are the most “manipulative,” “secretive,” “devious,” and “deceptive,” people they work with. Pedophiles have made grooming kids for molestation an art form. After 14 years of dealing with these

“Your average pedophile molests 300 children before they get caught.”

issues the information which honestly scares me to death is the FBI's statements which say **your average pedophile molests 300 children before they get caught.** The information I mentioned earlier which was generated through polygraph examinations on a sample of imprisoned sex offenders with fewer than two known victims, (on average) found that these offenders actually had an average of 110 victims and 318 offenses. Another Polygraph study found a sample of imprisoned sex offenders to have extensive criminal histories, committing sex crimes for an average of 16 years before they got caught. I personally have been hearing a lot of stories about pedophiles who were convicted in the late 70's and early 80's, being arrested on new offenses. I fear we have no idea how many kids these old school pedophiles have molested before they got caught. I met the wife of a man who was convicted of child molestation in 1982, a crime for which he served time. Last year he molested a fourteen year old boy who was a friend of his son. He did this while lying on a bed with him teaching him the Bible. We have no idea how many children people like this man have molested over the last 25 years. **I personally believe somewhere between 50 and 60% of adult sex offenders will re-offend. I have seen studies involving juveniles that show 75% of juveniles will re-offend.**

This alone should make us act if we know we have offenders in our midst. With this said, let me tell you personally why I have written these guidelines. As I have been doing focus groups around the country getting ready to re-record the series “Where Does the Second Glance Go” I have been hearing unbelievable stories about adult and juvenile sex offenders in our midst. What make these stories unbelievable is I have never seen a situation where anything was being done to monitor or manage them. In every case I asked why not? In every case **I was told the churches involved felt a compelling need to show grace to those offenders in their midst. In almost every case I have been told they didn't want to do anything which would make sex offenders uncomfortable.**

I must be totally honest with you and say my first response when I began to hear reports like these was to want to scream. Then outrage set in. After I calmed down, for about a year, I have just begun to call these types of statements the greatest examples of **“misguided grace”** I have ever seen. Let me tell you why. The CSOM states “the primary goal of supervision is the protection of victims and the prevention of future victimization.” And the CSOM say’s, **“a comprehensive approach to sex offender management includes several key elements. Collaboration among those agencies and individuals charged with initiating and implementing effective supervision and treatment practices is essential to managing sex offenders safely in our community.”** Simply stated, everyone who is a part of a sex offenders life that has a stake in protecting past or potential victims should be involved in their supervision. Every element of a sex offender's life should be a part of their management process. Given the secrecy, manipulation, and deception that characterize sex offending behavior, there also must be a clear set of operating norms for all involved to minimize the ability of offenders to circumvent the goal of supervision. (CSOM, 2002)

“a comprehensive approach to sex offender management includes several key elements. Collaboration among those agencies and individuals charged with initiating and implementing effective supervision and treatment practices is essential to managing sex offenders safely in our community.”

One of the things all sex offenders have in common is they know there is nothing about the remainder of their life which will ever be private. Most of them are being put on sex offender register lists. Their crimes are a matter of public record. I am willing to say if a sex offender of any kind comes to you and asks you not to tell anyone about their presence they are already on the way down. It also shows they probably don't fully take responsibility for their crime. If this happened to me I would be debating whether or not I had a responsibility to report my transaction with the offender to the authorities. There would be a very good possibility this person was in violation of their treatment, management and parole by just asking the question in this way.

WHERE DOES THE
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DEALING WITH THE CHURCH AND IT'S LEADERSHIP

While I don't feel compelled to write extensively on this subject I do feel it would be appropriate to deal with the issues affecting the church and its leadership first. It has become imperative in the world in which we live that pastors and ministry leaders around the country provide policy, procedure and training to help guide their staff with regards to how they appropriately interact with members of the opposite sex; both with their coworkers as well as those they are ministering to. This will help avoid problems like we have been discussing. **It will also protect your staff from false accusation and protect those we are caring for from harm.** I would encourage you to evaluate EVERY aspect of your ministry outreach to determine which areas require policy and procedure to mandate how they function. Establishing safety guidelines that determine how your nursery and children's ministries operate are the first that come to mind. Instituting guidelines and boundaries by which counseling and youth staff operate and engage those to whom they are ministering to would also be helpful. Having policy, procedure, training and an accountability plan that governs and monitors your staff's behavior might be the only legal leg you have to stand on if one of your staff chooses to make bad decisions with regards to these issues. I would suggest instituting the use of a behavioral contract which clearly communicates the standards by which you operate your organization. This contract should also mandate a staff member's response when they gain knowledge that an incident has taken place or policy is being violated. A supervisor should review these policies and procedures with EVERY employee and volunteer of your organization. This contract should be signed by all of your staff members, paid and volunteers. By an accountability plan, I mean an ongoing process that takes place between a staff member and their supervisor where they confirm that they are following the established policy and procedure. This should be done on a minimum of a monthly basis. I would suggest you make it a matter of policy to make note of and record these discussions. I know what I am suggesting might seem excessive to you. It is my desire to help you avoid problems and to put you in the best possible position to deal with them if and when it goes south. I wish I had the time to tell you of every incident I have heard of that could have been avoided by the implementation of simple policy and procedure. I can tell you numerous stories I have heard about where effective policy and procedure has kept some very bad things from happening.

My goal here is not to create a climate of fear but to institute a corporate culture which establishes the premises that policy exists and there is an expectation it is followed. I know of one church in which the executive pastor had an adulterous affair with one of his subordinates. Their youth pastor was arrested for molesting a young girl in his care and they have three pedophiles in their congregation they are doing nothing to supervise. Over the years they have done nothing to intervene in this process and they always seem shocked when something bad happens. To speak frankly it is this type of madness I am trying to avoid.

My goal here is not to create a climate of fear but to institute a corporate culture which establishes the premises that policy exists and there is an expectation it is followed.

ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION IN THE CHURCH

The Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) has published an overview of current and promising practices with regards to a community's supervision of sex offenders. They have made the components of effective sex offender management very easy to understand and apply. Some of them I have already discussed in this document. As we move forward I will make mention of some of them again in this context. Many of the components, principles and practices the CSOM have established are very easily adapted for our use in the church. You will see I have followed this portion of the CSOM outline very closely.

OVERVIEW OF KEY ELEMENTS

A primary goal of this document is to provide an overview and discussion of practices that have emerged from programs around the country. A core assumption seems to underlie these emerging practices: The primary goal of sex offender management is the protection of victims and the prevention of further victimization. The CSOM states, "A comprehensive approach to sex offender management include several key elements" (CSOM, 2000).

Collaboration: The one thing the most successful treatment and supervision programs around our country have in common is they understand the central role of collaboration in the effective management of sex offenders in the community. CSOM makes this point clear to us, "Collaboration among those agencies and individuals charged with initiating and implementing effective supervision and treatment practices is essential to managing sex offenders safely in our community (CSOM, 2000). CSOM goes on to say, "It is imperative that collaborative efforts to manage sex offenders venture beyond the traditional, cooperative relationships associated with traditional case management. Given the secrecy, manipulation and the deception that characterizes sex offending behavior, there also must be a clear set of operating norms for all involved to minimize the ability of offenders to circumvent the goals of supervision" (CSOM, 2000). The "entities involved must not only share information about each offender, but should also work together to evaluate continually the offenders progress and discuss whether modifications should be made in the offender's treatment and supervision plan based on the information they might learn from one another." CSOM states, **"Supervision of sex offenders in some ways resembles putting a puzzle together. Small pieces of information taken alone have little significance. However, when the pieces are put together the picture that emerges often provides important information regarding the offender's activities"** (CSOM, 2000).

"Supervision of sex offenders in some ways resembles putting a puzzle together. Small pieces of information taken alone have little significance. However, when the pieces are put together the picture that emerges often provides important information regarding the offender's activities"

What we see here is a picture of a system of supervision that is best characterized as an open, honest forum of communication and collaboration. For this system to function at its highest potential level this communication and collaboration MUST cross all territorial, boundary lines that exist in some churches. This is the time to put all our territorial tendencies aside. Not doing so will increase the likelihood of victimization in your church. All members of your staff who are in a “need to know” position must be fully trained with regards to the policies and procedures you put in place. **For this training to be effective everyone on your staff who is in a “need to know” position must be involved.** This will at times, include those who are not directly involved with the management program. For true “buy in” to take place everyone on your staff must fully understand the extraordinary nature of sexually-oriented crime. They must understand the unique supervision, treatment, and public safety challenges sex offenders pose. They need to understand to carry out their crimes sex offenders will become the most “manipulative,” “secretive,” “devious,” and “deceptive,” people they work with. With all of this said I know there will be people on your staff who believe we are not extending God's grace and are judging these people.

For this training to be effective everyone on your staff who is in a “need to know” position must be involved.

Managing sex offenders is not the time to allow passive aggressive or territorial behavior to take place on your staff in any way. I would be as autocratic and dictatorial as I had to be with any staff member who was not actively cooperative. I would do whatever I had to do to make them understand they have to comply with the sex offender management program; non-compliance is not an option. I know this sounds harsh but passive aggressive non-compliance could lead to the breakdown in the system which enables an offender to harm someone in your midst. **Trust me when I say it is never one of the “grace placers” who end up on the ten o’clock news explaining how a sex offender who was attending your church molested a five-year old who was left unattended by their parents in the bathroom.** You would only have to look one of these fathers and mothers in the eyes once to come to a place where you were willing to do whatever you had to do to make sure this never happened again. If you are going to allow sex offenders in your church, everyone in the place better understand the need to manage them.

Victim-Centered Approach: “The primary goal of supervision is the protection of victims and the prevention of future victimization. Supervision agencies have traditionally been offender-focused in their work, the most comprehensive and responsible approaches to the community management of sex offenders are those which focus on the needs and safety of both past and potential victims” (CSOM, 2000). Churches should work closely with any victim advocacy organization involved in the care of victims and their families who are a part of your church or organization. It should be our goal to provide any support and resources we can to those who have been harmed. Our role at the table in a secular setting should be to ensure that the spiritual needs of any victims in our care are taken into consideration. In these settings our goal should be to be polite but assertive if necessary. We may be the only people literally at the table who are motivated to care for the spiritual needs of the victims who are involved. A victim centered approach to sex offender management should enhance sex offender management policy development to ensure that the safety needs of victims are our driving force. Special care should be taken by all organizations to ensure our policies do not re-traumatize victims of sexual assault or inadvertently jeopardize the safety of others.

THE WANTS, NEEDS AND DESIRES OF THE VICTIM SHOULD ALWAYS COME FIRST!!!!

Sex Offender Specific Treatment: “Mandated specialized treatment as part of probation or parole conditions is an integral component of effective community supervision. The offense specific treatment which research has shown to be the most effective holds offenders accountable, is victim-centered, and is limited in confidentiality” (CSOM, 2000). Limited confidentiality is a new concept to those of us in the church. One of the things all sex offenders have in common is they know there is nothing about the remainder of their life which will ever be private. Most of them have been placed on sex offender register lists. Their crimes are a matter of public record. I am willing to say if a sex offender of any kind comes to you and asks you not to tell anyone about their presence they are already on the way down. It also shows they probably don’t fully take responsibility for their crime. If this happened to me I would be debating whether or not I had a responsibility to report my transaction with the offender to the authorities in charge of their supervision. There would be a very good possibility this person is in violation of their treatment, management and parole just asking the question in this way. Specialized treatment is a critical component of any sex offender’s treatment. It is “markedly different from traditional mental health counseling or psychotherapy in a number of significant ways” (CSOM, 2002).

- The primary focus is the protection of victim's and the community.
- Information discussed in the treatment sessions is shared with supervision agents, poly-graph examiner's, and others as necessary.
- Considerable attention is directed toward making the offenders understand the harm they have caused their victim(s).
- Thinking errors that contribute to offending patterns are revealed, examined and challenged.
- Offenders participate in professionally facilitated group sessions in which they challenge one another about their denial, distortions, and manipulation (CSOM, 2002).

“Sex offender treatment programs that include a relapse prevention component and cognitive-behavioral techniques and that tailor their treatment responses to meet the varying, diverse, and complex needs of sex offenders have the greatest chance to reduce both sexual and general recidivism. Treatment programs should also include other adjunctive components such as marital and family therapy, substance abuse treatment, educational and vocational support, medication when needed, and individual therapy to address sex offenders other problems and issues” (CSOM, 2002). If in your involvement with a sex offender in your church, issues which don’t seem to be addressed arise, and you feel they might require some form of treatment like those mentioned above, **don’t hesitate to bring your concern to the authorities overseeing the offenders’ treatment. You may hold the piece that puts the whole puzzle together.** I would rather be wrong about a concern than not to bring forth information which might be pertinent to an offender’s supervision.

“don’t hesitate to bring your concern to the authorities overseeing the offenders’ treatment.”

Clear and Consistent Policy: “Given the secrecy, manipulation and the deception that characterizes sex offending behavior, there also must be a clear set of operating norms for all involved to minimize the ability of offenders to circumvent the goals of supervision” (CSOM, 2000). Clear and consistent policies at all levels are crucial components of supervision. Policy defines the method of a sex offender’s supervision, the roles various people play in the supervision process, and the response to indications of risk of relapse. Policy should also mandate our response when policy has been broken by an offender. Policy in a church should establish the goals of the system and clearly identify the role each department and its people play in the management of the sex offenders in our churches. How these entities communicate should also be a matter of policy in any church’s sex offender management program.

I would suggest making it a matter of policy that any person to person communication which takes place outside of your sex offender management committee setting, takes place in writing.

I would suggest making it a matter of policy that any person to person communication which takes place outside of your sex offender management committee setting, takes place in writing. It is alright for verbal communication to take place, especially if the communication is classified as an emergency, then a response is needed. All communication of this type should be followed up in writing.

I have heard of numerous cases in the Body of Christ where verbal communication is forgotten or not acknowledged. Sex offender management process, is not the time or place for "he said, she said" communication. Having things in writing may be the only way we are able to determine how and when our sex offender management system broke down. I would remind you, we generally find ourselves in these types’ of conversations in the ministry when bad things have happened.

Building your churches or organizations sex offender management program around these key elements are the foundation on which its potential success is built. All programs should emphasize offender accountability and underscore the need for those who work, where sex offenders are to understand the unique supervision, treatment, and public safety challenges these offenders pose.

THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR PROGRAM AND THE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS

As you will see from here forward in this document, establishing the framework and policy for your sex offender management process will actually be a fairly simple process.

SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

I would start by establishing a group of people in your church or organization who are responsible for the research and development of your organizations sex offender management program.

The Committee Chair or Leader: This is the person who is ultimately responsible for the development of policy which becomes your sex offender management program. They are ultimately responsible for what actually becomes policy, the final product so to speak. With this in mind, I would suggest this person be at least an executive pastor level or higher on your staff. If you do not have an executive pastor, your senior pastor or a member of your elder board of executive committee should be involved. If you are part of a para-church organization you're CEO or president should be involved. The bottom line is if they are ultimately responsible for your organization they should be involved at least through the development process. If your organization is so large you later decide to pass the ongoing management of this program on to someone else, your policy and procedure should include on-going meetings between your program manager and the executive who oversees them. These meetings should by policy, include a follow-up written report of what was discussed in the meeting and its outcomes. Any updates or changes in any program or problems that were discussed should also be recorded in writing.

I want to be clear our goal is not to be involved in the specific treatment of offenders.

Treatment and Supervision Coordinator: Generally speaking this person should be the **most educated, highly-trained member of your counseling staff**. This person should have a basic understanding of the major issues that are involved when dealing with sex offenders and their behavior. It would be best if this person had an understanding of sex offenders' mental health counseling and psychotherapy practices. Most states by law have established standards and guidelines for the evaluation, assessment, treatment and supervision of juvenile and adult sex offenders. **Most states have extensive sex offender specific training and treatment experience criteria, treatment providers must meet before they can be approved by the state to manage the treatment of sex offenders. These requirements often include the need to have over five years of experience and over 1000 hours of sex offender specific treatment experience before you can become certified.** Extensive sex offender specific training is also generally required. If this person does not have a working knowledge of the guidelines your state has established for the management of sex offenders, they should have the ability to do the appropriate research to determine what they are. They should have the ability to gain a basic working knowledge of sex offenders and their behavior. I would suggest you get a copy of all appropriate materials and put them in your file for easy access. **I want to be clear our goal is not to be involved in the specific treatment of offenders.** The courts will mandate what an offenders parole and treatment process requires. State guidelines generally determine who is involved in this process. Having a person with this base of information on your committee will put you in a place where they can help everyone involved to understand what is taking place with regard to the treatment requirements of any given specific offender. They will also be able to determine if the agencies and providers involved with the treatment and supervision of an offender in your church are following the guidelines. They should be the person who interacts with any treatment and supervising agencies you happen to become involved with. They will be the one who makes sure the requirements of a specific offenders safety plans are not in conflict with your own. Some treatment programs could demand a higher level of supervision than your plan mandates. When this happens you either need to meet their requirements or tell them you can't be involved. If you do raise the standard of supervision with regards to a specific offender, you need to communicate those changes in writing to everyone who will be involved. You should also make these changes a part of a specific offenders' file and church specific safety plan. This should also be done in writing. I would recommend a meeting to discuss these changes and address any questions or issues that might arise. This should make it clear, the higher the professional level of this person, the better. If you have someone who has the ability to meet your states management and treatment requirements on any level you should consider having them pursue the certification process. This will put you in a better position to interact with the treatment and supervising agencies you might become involved with. If you do not have a person who meets any of these criteria on your staff or at your disposal, I would consider hiring someone who can fill this position. I suggest hiring them to help guide you through the developmental stages of your process. It would be helpful to be able to call on them in the future if any specific issue or problems arise.

Victim Advocate: As I have said many times, “The primary goal of supervision is the protection of victims and the prevention of future victimization.” A victim advocates sole concern is the safety and well-being of past and potential victims in your midst. Their purpose is to ensure the safety needs of victims’ are our driving force. It is their job to make sure your policies do not re-traumatize victims of sexual assault or inadvertently jeopardize the safety of others. **It is their job to demand the wants, needs and desires of the victim should always come first!!!!** They should work closely with any victim advocacy organizations involved in the care of victims and their families who are a part of your church or organization. It is their role to ensure the physical and spiritual needs of the victims and their families are being met and are taken into consideration when policy is being made. They should also help coordinate any ministry and treatment needs they have with your treatment coordinator. If you ever find yourself creating policy which puts the needs of any offender above the needs of the victim you are probably wrong in doing so.

“The primary goal of supervision is the protection of victims and the prevention of future victimization.”

Security Personnel: A head usher will do in case your church does not have a security plan or personnel in place. These people are often our best sources of information when it comes to the on-going habits and movements of the people in our midst. Every church should have a security plan in place that mandates what everyone’s actions are should a problem arise. This is especially true if a sex offender ventures or is found somewhere they are not supposed to be. Youth workers and children coordinators or workers should have the ability to contact security personnel or the head usher at any time during a service. The ability of these people to communicate is the key to their ability to get the help they need. I would suggest getting walkee-talkies that will give them the ability to communicate in case of an emergency. Cell phones on vibrate may go unnoticed. No one on your staff should ever confront any sex offender who is in the act of violating their safety plan. This should be done by security staff or head ushers who have met the offender and have some form of relationship with them. **It is a good idea to train your security personnel to do everything in their power to build a good working relationship with an offender in your church.** Remember an offender who is caught in the act of violating a safety plan might have already violated the terms of their treatment and parole by doing so. It might very well mean they are going back to jail. The reality is we don’t know how the offender is going to respond. Whoever responds to this call for help should not go alone and should have the ability to respond physically if necessary. Your church’s security plan ought to clearly define how and when any security staff becomes physically involved with any threat they may encounter. Clearly the goal of this intervention should be to calmly approach the offender and ask them what they are doing. Your security personnel’s first priority should be to calmly approach and diffuse the situation. Going into a situation with guns blazing, will only serve to escalate the situation. The bottom line here is if they possess a threat of imminent harm or danger call 911. If you have a very large church that has police on your property during your services, a plan should be created to determine how and when they are engaged in any situation. Of course all of these policies and procedures should be in writing and should be an ongoing part of your security personnel or ushering training. Security personnel should have an intimate understanding of each offender’s safety plan. They should be involved in the walk through process I will describe so they have the ability to directly engage any offender who is not where they are supposed to be.

General Church or Ministry Staff: As I have mentioned it is imperative all members of your staff who are “in a need to know” position must be fully-trained with regards to the policies and procedures you put in place. For this training to be effective everyone on your staff who is in a “need to know” position must be involved. This even includes those who are not directly involved with the management program. For true “buy in” to take place everyone on your staff who is directly involved must fully understand the extraordinary nature of sexually-oriented crime. They must understand the unique supervision, treatment, and public safety challenges sex offenders pose. Ministry department heads or coordinators should be involved in the policy development process from the beginning. They will be the best source of information available when it comes to knowing how and when those in their care most need protection. They also probably have the best understanding of the physical environment in which they operate. They will have the best idea of where sex offenders should not be. Department heads and coordinators should become an ongoing part of this process so they know who the sex offenders are and when it might become part of their job to manage them. As an example, if an offender wants to go to the men’s Bible study at six o’clock on Tuesday morning, it might become necessary for the leader of that study to become aware of their presence and be involved in their safety plan. I know I have said sex offenders generally have very little expectation of privacy. **It is still our job to do everything we can to protect the dignity of all those we are ministering to. Everyone who needs to know who the sex offenders are need to understand it is their responsibility not to pass along knowledge of their presence to people not directly involved with the management committee.** This might be very hard to do when volunteer staffs are involved. The ramifications of this type of information leaking out could do irreparable damage to the offenders’ and their victims’ where ever they may be. It could cause a panic in your congregation you will never forget. This is no time for the old adage telephone, telegraph, tele-a-Christian to come into play. I would make it a matter of policy that anyone who is found to have broken this policy in any way, for any reason is immediately terminated.

It is still our job to do everything we can to protect the dignity of all those we are ministering to. Everyone who needs to know who the sex offenders are need to understand it is their responsibility not to pass along knowledge of their presence to people not directly involved with the management committee.

SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT OF OFFENDERS

ULTIMATELY WHO DO WE ALLOW TO ATTEND?

If you haven't caught on by now, having sex offenders of any kind in your congregation presents immeasurable risk, danger and liability to your congregations. I will tell you up front, even if you have the greatest sex offender management plan in the world in place your people are still at risk. It does not matter what you do, you are still at risk. It is imperative you seek the Lord to determine if he has really called you to enter into this kind of ministry. If he has, what level of risk and liability do you feel called to assume? CEO's, presidents, pastors and elder boards, I would urge you, unless you can look yourself and each other in the eye and say, "Thus say's the Lord God of Israel and He has called us to this type of ministry" don't get involved. If you feel called, you must do an appropriate evaluation of your resources and staff to determine at what level you feel equipped to be involved. **Sex offenders are not managed by faith. If you realize you do not have the resources to manage offenders effectively it might be better if you encouraged the offenders to go elsewhere.** My advice would be to have your committee evaluate its resources and create a set of suggested policy and procedures to be presented to your church or organizations board. These guidelines should become a matter of board approved and mandated policy and procedure. These guidelines should reflect and coincide with the level of risk and liability you feel called to assume. You may determine if there are some sex offenders who just possess to great of a threat to allow in your churches at all.

Sex offenders are not managed by faith.

***If you realize you do not have the resources to manage offenders effectively
it might be better if you encouraged the offenders to go elsewhere.***

HOW DO WE MONITOR THEM? THE SAFETY PLAN

It is imperative every sex offender you allow to attend your church, or be involved with your organization, have a comprehensive safety plan in place that governs how they safely interact with your congregation and how your congregation safely interacts with them. The offender must meet with the members of the committee who have been given the responsibility of implementing their specific plan. I would suggest this include your treatment and supervision coordinator, victim's advocate and security personnel as well as whatever department heads or coordinators with which they might become involved. Whoever has been given the task of monitoring their presence while they are on church property should also be involved in this meeting. This plan must mandate clear concise policy and procedure that determines the following:

- Their behavior and actions from the time they set foot on your property to the time they leave.
 - If they are to be monitored at all times while they are on your church property, the safety plan should include the exact specifics of where, when and how the offender and the person who has been assigned to monitor them meet.
 - It should determine where and with whom they are required to check in if they are not required to be under constant supervision when they are in your property.
 - It should determine where and to whom they report when it is time for them to leave your facility.
 - If any of the people who are involved in the reporting or monitoring process are unable to be there for any reason, the safety plan should include the policy and procedure which is used to inform the offender of these changes. If the offender is under the supervision of a treatment program, your treatment and supervision coordinator should inform the person in charge of the offenders' treatment of these changes verbally and in writing. This should be done as far in advance as possible. The treatment program can then confirm the offender understands these changes. If an emergency occurs and the people who are involved in the monitoring or reporting process are unavailable, your committee must have an emergency plan in place to assure offenders are not left unmonitored.
- The last thing you want to have happen is you find an offender wandering around your facility unattended and they have the ability to say, "I did not know what I was supposed to do."** They should always know where they are not supposed to be.
- It must clearly define where they are allowed to go and not to go in your church. Even those who are not being monitored at all times should know where they are not allowed to be.
 - It should also define how they get there.
 - It should mandate what events or services at your church they are allowed to attend and who monitors them while they are there.

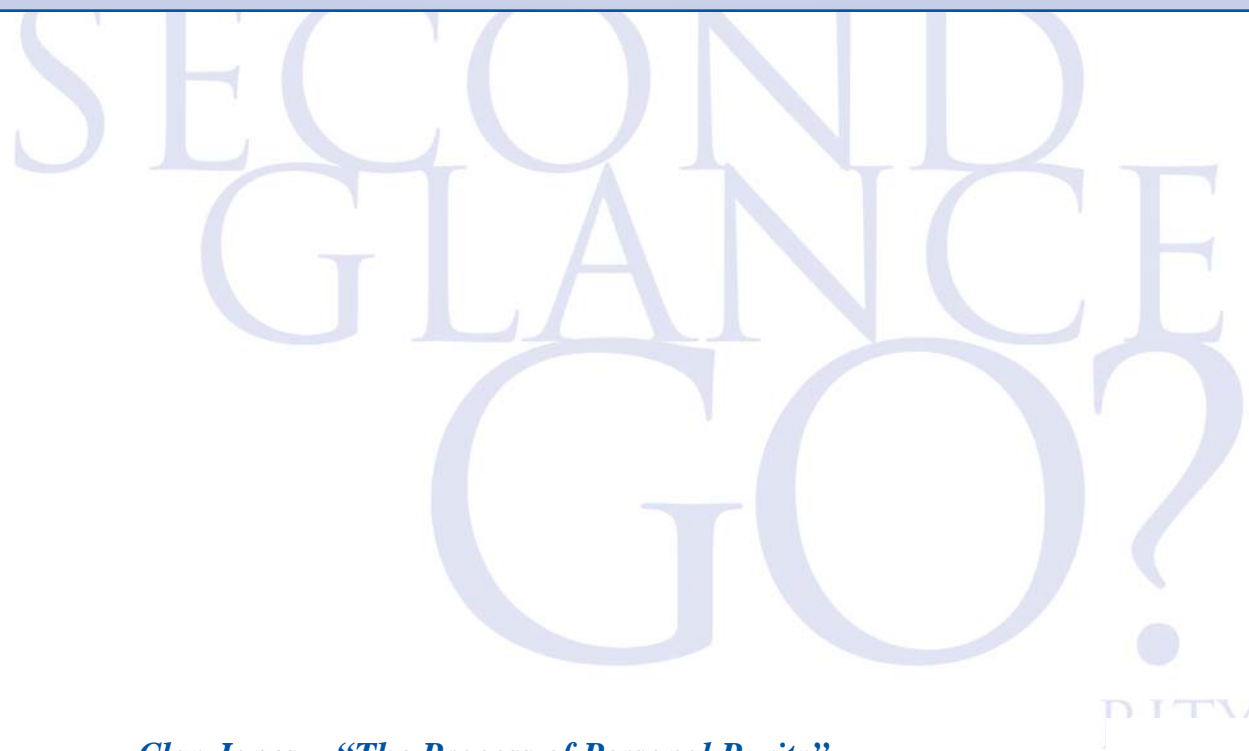
The last thing you want to have happen is you find an offender wandering around your facility unattended and they have the ability to say, "I did not know what I was supposed to do."

Every aspect of a sex offender's involvement with your church or group should be governed by this safety plan and its guidelines. Your committee needs to provide the offender with a simple map or schematic of your property which clearly defines:

- Where the offender may or may not go. Use your common sense,. Sex offenders should never be allowed to go in the nursery, children or youth areas of your church.
- It should show a clearly marked path how they are to get where they are going.

Your treatment and supervision coordinator should do a guided walk-through of your facility with the schematic in hand to confirm the offender understands where they are allowed to be. Your security personnel committee member should also be along on this walk-through. Never send a female coordinator on a walk-through without a member of your security staff. This plan should be presented in writing in the form of a behavioral contract which is signed by the offender. I have done my best to give you an idea of the type of things you should be thinking of when you create an offenders specific safety plan. This is by no means an exhaustive list of things your committee needs to consider. It is important to remember all situations are different. Your specific situation may present some circumstances that are unique to your setting. You may need to adapt your policy to meet your specific needs.

It is imperative every sex offender you allow to attend your church or be involved with your organization, have a comprehensive safety plan in place, that governs how they safely interact with your congregation and how your congregation safely interacts with them.



AN OFFENDERS LEGAL STATUS AND HOW IT AFFECTS THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH US

A sex offenders status with the courts causes us to have to divide sex offenders into two distinct categories. Those sex offenders who are under the direct control and supervision of the court and those who are not.

1. **Sex offenders who are under the direct supervision of the courts** are probably a part of a court ordered treatment program. It is very unlikely an offender who was under the care of a treatment program would ever be allowed to go anywhere that was not pre-approved by the program. It is equally as unlikely an offender would ever be allowed to go anywhere with out a clear and concise safety plan in place. Some offenders are under a 24 hour a day management program. This means they have to report to their treatment program whenever they change locations. They have to report when they leave and when they arrive where they are going. When dealing with these types of programs essentially **what will happen is the treatment program the offender is in will most likely mandate what your churches interaction with the offender looks like**. You should communicate your desire to become fully informed with regards to the guidelines of the safety program they are operating under. This way you can make sure you are doing everything in your power to ensure the offender is following their safety program when they are at your facility. **Ask to get a copy of the guidelines for your file and make them a matter of your record. Inform everyone on your sex offender management committee what the programs safety plan entails**. Discuss how it will be implemented in your setting. Make sure everyone involved understands the guidelines and what their specific responsibility is with regards to how they are carried out. Put your implementation plans in writing and make them a part of your record. Your treatment and supervision coordinator should communicate the scope and nature of your church's program to the treatment coordinator from the offenders program. Inform them you have a fairly comprehensive site specific safety plan in place and ask them to take part in the meetings. Be prepared they may or may not want the offenders in their care to sign your behavioral contract. They will probably be surprised you have a sex offender management plan in place. If they don't want the person in their care to sign your contract you are going to have to decide if you want to proceed forward. Do your best to cooperate with any program with which you become involved. Developing a strong working relationship with these types of programs is the only way you can form a true collaborative relationship. If all goes well you should be able to develop a strong working relationship.

Ask to get a copy of the guidelines for your file and make them a matter of your record. Inform everyone on your sex offender management committee what the programs safety plan entails.

2. One of the biggest problems we face is **what we do with sex offenders who are a part of our church's or organizations and are not under the direct control of treatment programs or the courts.** They have already gone thru the adjudication and treatment process, or they are new offenders who have fallen under investigation for a sexually oriented crime. They usually are not under the jurisdiction of the court during this time. **The first thing to do is to remember is it is imperative every sex offender you allow to attend your church or be involved with your organization have a comprehensive safety plan in place.** The purpose of this plan is to govern how they safely interact with your congregation and how your congregation safely interacts with them. This plan must mandate clear concise policy and procedure that should follow the same general guidelines I have mentioned previously in this document. Also, we have to unequivocally understand we are in no way qualified to evaluate the risk level any one offender presents. I don't mean to be blunt, but, if you are not a highly trained professional who meets all of your states requirements to be certified to evaluate the risk a specific sex offender present's, I would urge you not to try. Leave this kind of evaluation to the professionals. I would suggest you limit your evaluation of a sex offenders behaviors to three distinct verifiable categories.

The first thing to do is to remember is it is imperative every sex offender you allow to attend your church or be involved with your organization have a comprehensive safety plan in place.

1. What legal classification does their crime fall under, felony or misdemeanor?
2. What was the frequency level involved in their crimes? Are the offenders involved repeat or multiple offenses?
3. What was the nature of their crime? Did they involve threats to their victims and were their crimes violent in nature.

I would suggest you respond to these categories as follows.

- If the offender has been convicted or accused of a felony they must be monitored at all times while on your church property or attending a church or organizations function.
- If the offender has been convicted or accused of a crime that involves multiple or repeat offenses they must be monitored at all times while on your church property or in attendance at a church or organizations functions.
- If the offenders crime involved threats and were violent in nature they must be monitored at all times while on your church property or in attendance at a church or organizations functions.
- If the offenders crime involved children they must be monitored at all times while on your church property or in attendance at a church or organizations functions.
- If the offenders crime was a misdemeanor and involved child porn they must be monitored at all times while on your church property or in attendance at a church or organizations functions. I know a child porn addict who had over 800 photographs of underage girls on his computer and has been charged with a misdemeanor. **If children are involved I would not recommend you take any chances. Not ever!!!**

I would define monitored at all times as being under the direct supervision of someone other than their spouse from the time they set foot on church property to the time they leave. This includes when they go to the bathroom. I would keep these policies active literally for as long as they were in attendance at your church. I know what I am suggesting might seem excessive to you. **Life long intervention has become a very real part of sex offender management.** I can tell you numerous stories about offenders who have not offended for almost twenty-years and they end up re-offending. You must understand most offenders who fall into these categories would never be allowed to go to places where potential victims might be.

I would define monitored at all times as being under the direct supervision of someone other than their spouse from the time they set foot on church property to the time they leave.

If they were, there would most likely be a parole mandated safety plan in place everywhere they went. Some of the offenders restrictions might be in place for the rest of their life. We should make any long term management requirements the offender has to obey a part of our ongoing management program apart of our record. Inform everyone on your sex offender management committee what the programs safety plan entails and discuss how it will be implemented in your setting. Make sure everyone involved understands the guidelines and what their specific responsibilities are with regards to how they are carried out. Put your implementation plans in writing and make them a part of your record. Your treatment and management coordinator should make sure your policies do not end up violating an offenders long term parole guidelines. If after fifteen years the offender has no relapses and children were never involved. I would consider allowing their spouse to assume a supervisory role in the offenders' life while they were on your church property or attending church functions. I would still require them to check in and out with the person who was responsible to monitor their presence. I would require them to comply with the rest of their safety plan. I can assure you, before I would change any of your long term policy, I would be darn sure you had a long term relationship with this person. By long term, I mean someone on your staff who could make testimony with regards to their presence in the community for at least ten of those fifteen years. **Remember it is a very common ploy of sex offenders to move around in an attempt to circumvent the management process.** I would require first hand knowledge and testimony with regards to the true nature of their spiritual walk. They would have to be able to prove they have had a very real and genuine spiritual experience for at least ten years before I would consider changing the policy.

I believe one of the hardest situations we have to deal with in the Body of Christ today, involves people who have for whatever reasons have become the target in the investigation of a sexually oriented crime. Some may have already been charged and are out on bail. Others may be under investigation and be waiting to hear about the outcome of an investigation. I have been dealing with one guy who has been under investigation on child porn possession laws since November of 2005. He was finally advised of the actual charges against him last month. The federal government took 17 months to decide not to charge him. He was finally charged with a high level misdemeanor on a county level for possessing over 600 pictures of underage women on his computer. During this time he has not been under any courts jurisdiction. I would hope in most cases the officials involved would take more definitive actions to protect the community if they felt these people were a threat.

In my community this doesn't always seem to be the case. We had one man who was being investigated on serious rape charges. A breakdown in communication led to an arrest warrant sitting around on a desk for over two weeks before they brought him into custody. Unfortunately his arrest happened after he had violently raped three more women. Sadly he murdered one of them in the process. The question becomes what should we do with these people who are involved in this holding pattern while they are in our churches. While the answer may be difficult, it is simple. Follow the policies and procedures your board has mandated you to follow. The question your board or executive staff member may have to decide is do you want to manage someone who has not been convicted of a crime. My advice is create a safety program that follows the guidelines I have mentioned in the previous sections of this paper. Care should be taken to expand and engage several key elements of your program in a greater way in these circumstances. I would require the following to be added to the accused person's safety plan.

These steps should get the accused offender headed in the right direction.

- Do everything you can to help the person being investigated to find competent legal counsel. Do not ask them to do anything until the lawyer says it is alright to do so. There may be circumstances in your state which need to be taken into consideration before they act. The best attorneys I have ever seen deal with these issues seem to have a goal of getting the person being accused to do everything the courts might require them to do, before the courts require them to do it.

Once you have done this I would proceed with the following.

- **It would be smart to get the person into a court approved level or higher sex offender specific treatment program or counseling process.** Do not put this person in a general Christian counseling

It would be smart to get the person into a court approved level or higher sex offender specific treatment program or counseling process.

setting. I know I will get in trouble for saying this but there are very few Christian counselors in the world who have the ability to deal with sex offenders. If you get this person in a program that is not court approved, the court will simply mandate they go somewhere else for treatment when they get involved. This will only serve to frustrate the person who has been accused. I have seen a few cases

where the courts have dealt less harshly with people because they have put themselves in a stringent sex offender specific counseling before the court mandated they do so. It would be necessary for the offender to sign a confidentiality waiver so your treatment coordinator can talk to the investigating officers about the true nature of the crimes. This waiver should also apply to the counselors involved in the accused offenders treatment process. This will enable your treatment coordinator to get a better understanding of the heart and compliance level of the accused offender. Your collaboration with the counselor should extend to the point where they notify you the minute they believe the accused is no longer compliant or they feel they have become a risk to re-offend. Remember sex offenders tend to be the most deceptive, devious, manipulative people we will ever deal with. You need to have a strong working knowledge of the issues involved before you make the decisions to allow this person to come back to your church.

- **It would be good for them to get involved in a Celebrate Recovery or 12 Step program as soon as possible.** This will get the person being investigated on a path which will help them to deal with the spiritual issues they may be facing. This will get them involved in a process which engages the Lord in their circumstances. If the counselors managing the accused treatment say this program could interfere with their treatment process I would ask them to stop.
- Your victim advocate should do everything in their power to build relationship with the accused family. Our job is to do everything we can to make sure the spiritual and physical needs of the family are being met. The advocate should work closely with the treatment coordinator to provide referrals for counseling to the family if they have a need.

Coming to a place where we are willing to require someone who has not been convicted of a crime to submit to a supervision process can be a difficult decision. I must report I have never had an experience where someone who was being investigated for a crime who was repentant respond wrongly to the idea supervision. Most of the people we would come into contact with who are being investigated for this type of crime are looking for all the help they can get. They are generally good Christian people who are very afraid of going to jail. This process will also show the judge involved the offender wants to get better, is compliant and is actively willing and able to participate in a treatment program. There is a method to the madness I promise.

It would be good for them to get involved in a Celebrate Recovery or 12 Step program as soon as possible.

WHERE DOES THE
SECOND
GLANCE
GO?

JUVENILE OFFENDERS

THE SUPERVISION OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

I have talked extensively about the behavior of juvenile sex offenders earlier in this document. Juveniles present a unique set of risks and problems in supervision and management. Funding and ethical issues have made it difficult to get accurate information regarding the treatment and management of youth. If you have ever been involved in trying to put together any study that involved youth you would know how difficult of a process it can be. The CSOM say “a number of encouraging clinical reports on the treatment of sexually abusive youth have been published. While these studies are not definitive, they provide support for the belief that the majority of sexually abusive youth are amiable to, and can benefit from, treatment.” (CSOM,1999) I will admit I have never seen any studies to support what I am about say to you. I feel it is important to share my experience with you. Over the last few years I have met more and more kids between the ages of 11 and 14 who seem to have lost the ability to control themselves when it comes to acting out. Whether it is masturbation or fondling other children they are watching TV with. **There seems to be a growing number of kids who are acting out and not even cognitive they are doing so.** I have received many reports from parents around the country which support this assertion. I know it seems hard to believe but it is true. I have reports from parents about kids who are 12 or 13 years old who sit in a restaurant masturbating and they are not aware they are doing so. The younger the offenders are getting, the harder time they seem to have controlling themselves. I would suggest not allowing any juvenile sex offenders to be apart of any church function without having an extensive safety plan in place. The plan should be modeled after I mentioned in the part of this document titled *“How do we monitor them: The safety plan.”* I mention this specifically because there is an overwhelming undercurrent that the church does not perceive a need to manage juvenile sex offenders at all. I would like to add two things to the plan:

There seems to be a growing number of kids who are acting out and not even cognitive they are doing so.

- I would suggest you do not allow juvenile offenders to take part in church activity without being monitored constantly by an outside third party. **Juvenile offenders should never be alone in your church.** I would not suggest allowing parents to be the ones in charge of monitoring their children or teenagers. I have met too many parents of children and teens who have committed unbelievable sexually oriented crimes and they insist they do not have a problem.
- I would do everything in my power to advise any parent of a juvenile sex offender or predator to get them involved in a multi-systematic system of treatment. These programs offer the most promising results we have seen to date.

CONCLUSION

I know that dealing with these subjects has been difficult for many of you to take. **The reality is the sexually oriented issues and problems that once only shocked the church from afar have invaded and decimated the church at the highest level.** We live in a time when the leader of thirty million Evangelicals in this country resigned from his post and was removed from his position as pastor of the largest church in the state of Colorado calling himself a “sexually immoral liar and deceiver.” The sexual trends and behaviors that are being mainstreamed into the church today come from the worst of the worst one percent of the one percent of the pornography that is available in the world today. The things that are taking place are so vile and disgusting in nature I can’t even say them on the radio because I would be in violation of every obscenity standard the FCC ever dreamed of enforcing. Sadly the mass availability of all types of pornography on the Internet has had a profound impact on the Body of Christ. Harm has come to every demographic of society and the church.

It is time for us to begin to openly and honestly deal with these problems in the Body of Christ. There shouldn’t be any question in anyone’s mind. For whatever reason there has been a dramatic increase in the number of sex offenders who are present in the church over the last ten years. **There is no question sex offenders are the most “manipulative,” “secretive,” “devious,” and “deceptive,” people we work with in the ministry today.** I know and understand the desire of the church to show the grace and mercy of the Lord to everyone who walks thru our doors. **Allowing sex offenders to move around freely in our midst is not an extension of Gods grace.** I think what this paper has shown us is, effectively what we have done is become the instrument of Satan to set them up to fail. Unfortunately, if they fall in our midst, it very likely means the life of someone God has entrusted to our care might be destroyed forever. As I have brought these issues forward I hope you have seen my only motive in writing this paper is a true love of all people in the Body of Christ. **While I have a burning desire to protect our children and families from harm. I also possess an equal desire to minister to sex offenders in a way which will best put them in a place to be successful.** This way they have the greatest possible chance of having a life changing experience through Christ. **Trust me when I say this is the only possible way sex offenders might ever truly be less likely to re-offend.**

*Trust me when I say, this is the only possible way
sex offenders might ever truly be less likely to re-offend.*