

COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION



Police Department
Sex Registration Unit

Ground Rules

1. The meeting will begin & end on time.
2. The meeting will be conducted by the local law enforcement agency in an orderly & respectful fashion.
3. Questions will be taken one at a time during the question & answer period at the end of the meeting.
4. Personal sexual assault experiences should not be discussed during the presentation. A victims services representative will be available after the meeting.
5. Anyone attempting to disrupt the meeting will be escorted out by law enforcement.

Community Notification Team

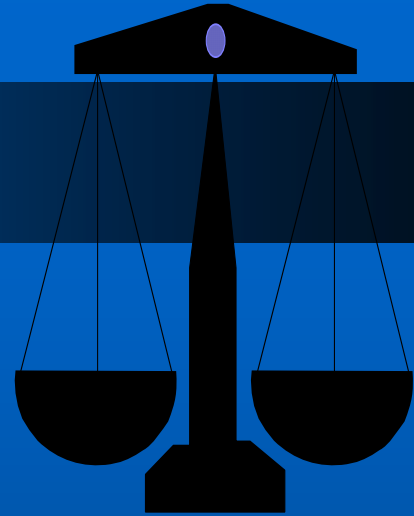
INTRODUCTIONS

- ✓ Law Enforcement Agency
- ✓ Probation Officer
- ✓ Sex Offender Treatment Provider
- ✓ Victim Advocate
- ✓ Guests

Overview of Presentation

- **Purposes & Intended Benefits of Community Notification**
- **Sex Offender Legislative History**
- **Overview of Community Notification**
- **General Educational Information regarding Sex Offenders, Victims, & Management**
- **Community Responsibility**
- **Subject of Community Notification**
- **Community Protection & Safety Issues**
- **Questions & Answers**

Sex Offender Legislative History



- **National Sex Offender Legislation**
 - Jacob Wetterling Act 1994
 - Megan’s Law 1996
 - Pam Lychner Act 1996
- **Colorado Sex Offender Legislation**
 - SVP Definition 18-3-414.5 C.R.S.
 - Community Notification 16-13-901 C.R.S.

Community Notification in Colorado

Occurs in 2 ways in Colorado:

- Passive: through the sex offender registration process
- Active: via Community Meeting for those sex offenders determined by the courts/parole board to be Sexually Violent Predators (SVPs)

How an SVP is Determined

Chapter 1

What is a Sexually Violent Predator (SVP)?

This is a federal/legal term.

The SVP must meet **FOUR** separate criteria. They are:

1. **AGE:** They must be **18 years or older** as of the date the offense was committed, **OR**, **less than 18 years of age** as of the date the offense was committed, but tried as an adult.

How an SVP is Determined

Chapter 1

2. DATE: The crime must have been committed on or after July 1, 1997. The crimes must be one or more of the following including attempts, solicitations & conspiracies:

A. *Sexual Assault*

B. *Unlawful Sexual Contact (felony)*

C. *Sexual Assault on a child*

D. *Sexual Assault on a child/Position of Trust*

AND

the conviction of such crime must have occurred on or after July 1, 1999. Conviction includes guilty, guilty plea, nolo contendere, & deferred judgment and sentence.

How an SVP is Determined

3. Relationship: The relationship to the victim must have been either:
 - A. A stranger to the offender, OR
 - B. A person with whom the offender established or promoted a relationship primarily for the purpose of sexual victimization

4. Risk Assessment Instrument: **Positive results, or the “passing of a risk assessment instrument”, which includes an assessment for the presence of: mental abnormality; level of denial regarding the offense; treatment appropriateness and motivation; presence of sexual deviant interests. Administered by: Probation/parole staff AND a qualified treatment evaluator, approved by the SOMB**

SVP & Community Notification

Chapter 1

If the offender meets all four criteria, then...

**Probation/DOC recommends that the
Court/Parole Board make a finding that the defendant be
designated as a SVP.**

**All designated SVP's are subject to Community Notification
Meetings.**

SVP's Pose a Higher Risk

- “The general assembly hereby finds that persons who are convicted of offenses involving unlawful sexual behavior and who are identified as sexually violent predators pose a high enough level of risk to the community that persons in the community should receive notification concerning the identity of these sexually violent predators.”
- By definition, SVP's pose a higher risk to re-offend the first year upon release from Department of Corrections.

Overview of Community Notification

Chapter 1

- DOC/Parole/Probation Notifies Local Law Enforcement Agency of SVP's Arrival in Community
- SVP Registers with Law Enforcement Agency
- Law Enforcement Notifies CBI
- Law Enforcement Agency Conducts Community Notification in Accordance with *SOMB Criteria*, as Outlined in *Manual for Colorado Law Enforcement*
- CBI places SVP on Internet

<http://sor.state.co.us/>

Facts & Statistics About Sex Offending

- As of 06/19/06 there are approx. 9,684 registered sex offenders in Colorado.
- Approximately 65% of convicted sex offenders are placed on probation in CO., (rest to DOC & community corrections.)
- Offenders may be caught for one type of offense, & be at high risk to commit another type.
- Crime of conviction is only one indicator of risk.

Facts & Statistics About Sex Offending (Cont'd)

- Majority of sex offenders are not caught or detected.
- Less than 16% of sex assaults are EVER reported.
- In CO., 1 in 150 women & 1 in 830 men have been sex assault victims in past 12 months, 16% were reported to police, 1 in 4 women & 1 in 17 men have been sex assault victims in their lifetimes.

(CDPHE, CCASA 1999)

Sex Offender

Characteristics

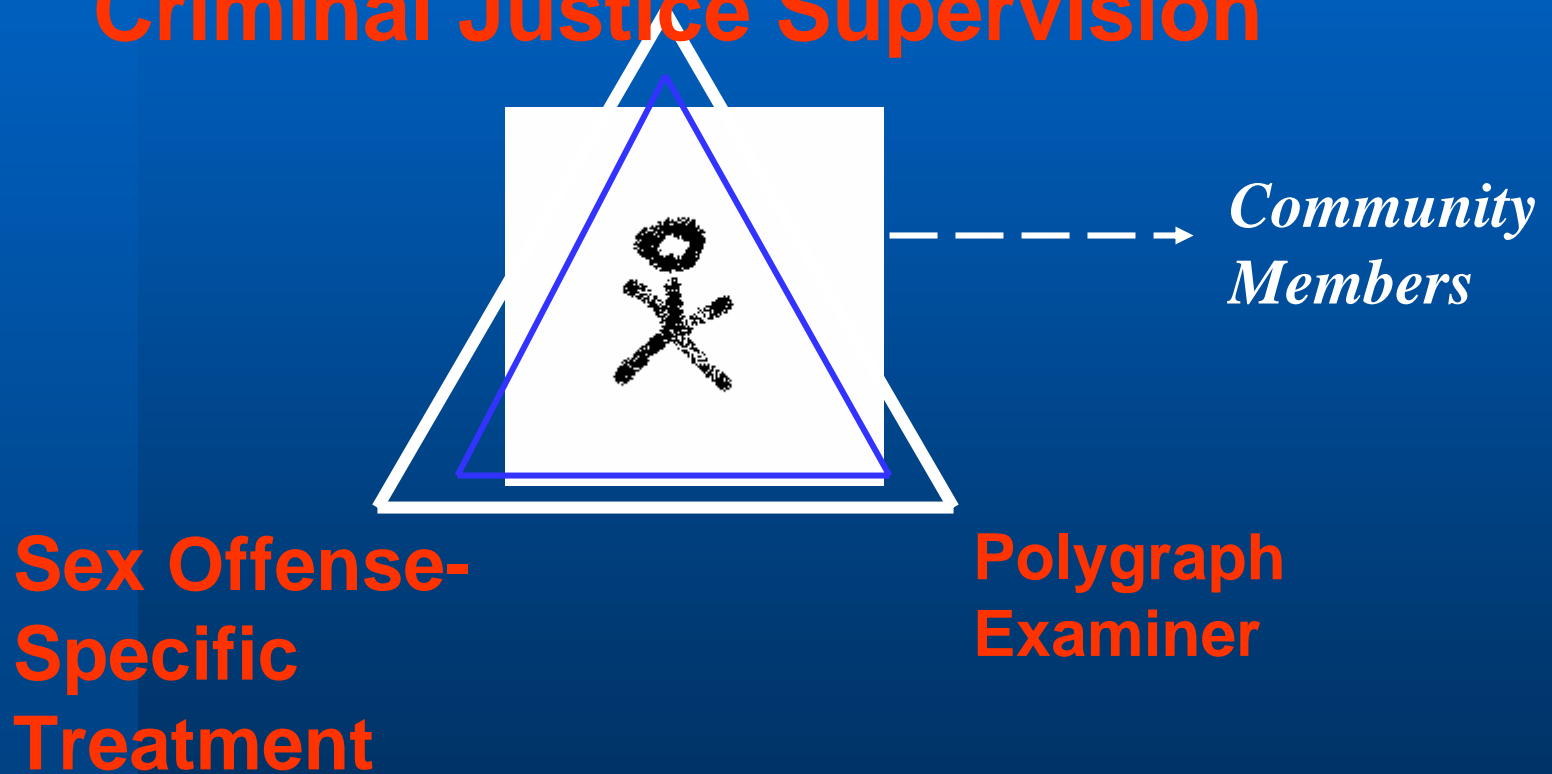
- Most sex offenders engage in CROSSOVER behavior.
- Many sex offenders have NO criminal history.
- There is no “typical” sex offender, but all tend to be deceptive, manipulative, & secretive.
- 78-90% of sex offenses are committed by someone known to victim.
- Sexual deviancy begins in mid to late adolescence.
- Sex offenses are not impulsive, they are usually carefully planned.
- Most sex offenders are male.

Impact on Victims of Sex Offenses

- **Victims exhibit many different responses: crying, angry, quiet, withdrawn. No “normal” response.**
- **Sex assault by someone known to victim creates more difficult recovery.**
- **Victims often develop post-traumatic stress disorder.**
- **Long-term effects inc.: depression, anxiety, eating disorders, flashbacks, divorce, loss of sexual interest, loss of concentration, sleeping disorders, suicide.**
- **Male victims tend to develop anti-social behaviors; females tend to develop depression; both develop substance abuse problems.**
- **Responses are minimized when victims are believed & supported.**

Containment Approach

Criminal Justice Supervision



Community Sex Offender Management (Cont'd)

- Most sex offenders in Colorado are supervised by the criminal justice system in the community.
- PO's set conditions, monitor behavior, & impose sanctions.
- Sex offenders must waive confidentiality for treatment & case management purposes.
- Secrecy undermines rehabilitation & threatens public safety.
- Sex offenders must be completely accountable for their behavior & must agree to intensive & intrusive measures.

Community Responsibility

- **Community Has Vested Interest in Helping Offender be Successfully Managed in the Community**
- **Harassment is Counter-productive to Goals of Community Management & May Cause Offender to go Underground**
- **Sex Offenders Have Same Need for Housing & Employment as Other Citizens**
- **Any Citizen Who Uses This Information to Harass, Threaten, or Intimidate Will Be Subject to Criminal Prosecution**

Information Regarding Subject of Notification

SVP Bulletin



Community Protection and Safety Issues

SVP's Do Not Represent All
Dangerous Sex Offenders,
& the Community Notification Process
Is Not a Complete Deterrent to Sexual
Assault.

Audience should refer to hand-outs.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Review Ground Rules

Community Notification



Informed Communities Are
Safer Communities

(SOMB 06/06)