

CSW Guidelines for Perpetrator Treatment

Issues	Therapeutic Goals	Process
<p>Acknowledging the Sexual Abuse Develop the ability to talk about the abusive behaviors</p>	<p>Sexually Abusive Parent (SAP) will acknowledge what occurred during the sexual abuse</p>	<p>The SAP usually benefits most from individual and group therapy, as well as conjoint work when appropriate, starting with the NOP.</p>
<p>Regulation Of behavior, especially having to do with child safety.</p>	<p>SAPs learn in treatment to recognize precursors to offending behavior, and stop the offending behavior before it re-occurs.</p>	<p>SAPs must go through the process of identifying thoughts and feelings which led up to the abuse.</p>
<p>Responsibility The adults in the family are responsible for the sexual abuse, and the resulting changes that the family experiences.</p>	<p>SAP will accept responsibility for the sexually abusive behavior, as well as the subsequent changes in the family. Some examples include damage to the victim, children being placed, financial stress, and other losses to the family.</p>	<p>A SAP working on responsibility should not be permitted to pressure the victim or NOP to accept an apology or forgive the SAP. Any behavioral changes should be observed for consistency over time.</p>
<p>Minimization and denial SAPs who acknowledge the sexual abuse and accept appropriate responsibility still often try to minimize the behavior, and its impact on the victim and the family.</p>	<p>SAP will consistently report a version of the abuse consistent with the victim's most complete disclosure.</p>	<p>Regular CSW collaborative contacts with all treating therapist can help the SAP client stay focused on the work of acknowledgment and taking responsibility for the abuse</p>
<p>Family role realignment SAPs often control and manipulate the rules and roles in the family. One example is demeaning the NOP to the role of a sibling and promoting the victim to the role of a spouse.</p>	<p>SAP will accept a diminished parental role. SAP must co-parent only with the NOP present and attuned to the parenting situation. SAP is to accept the NOP as head of the home.</p>	<p>This work must be done after the work of acknowledging the sexual abuse and accepting responsibility. It should also be done prior to safety planning. Expect denial, anger, bargaining, and sadness, prior to acceptance of changes</p>
<p>Safety Plan Safety plans are required to help the SAP develop appropriate child and family contacts.</p>	<p>SAP will develop and maintain a Safety Plan that addresses the SAP's potential to abuse his/her power in the family.</p>	<p>Safety concerns observed by the CSW are valid issues to communicate to the treating therapist to incorporate into the safety plan. Safety plans, once complete, can be used to assess family safety in the home.</p>

Perpetrator treatment is very complex and calls for extensive practice and supervision. The recommendation is that the therapist have at least 2, 000 hours of supervised practice, by a licensed clinician who has also had this supervision. Perpetrator treatment is rarely an appropriate learning opportunity for interns or students.