

Sixth Judicial District
Department of Correctional Services
Sex Offender Program

Philosophy:

The Sex Offender Program (SOP) of the Sixth Judicial District has been developed around three (3) basic beliefs. These beliefs serve as the basis for our approach to both treatment and supervision.

First, sexually aggressive behavior, as with all human behavior, is learned. The offender's pattern of sexual abuse is more the reflection of stress and conflict in his everyday life than it is a reflection of his meeting his pleasure or desired needs. Sexual assault is viewed as primarily a learned expression of aggression acted out in a sexual manner rather than an aggressive expression of sexuality.

Second, for the sex offender to learn socially appropriate alternatives to sexual aggression a combination of treatment, education, and judicial intervention is necessary. Only by learning to identify the patterns of feeling, thought, and fantasy that lead to their sexually aggressive patterns of behavior can the offender learn to control their own behavior, thus reducing risk of a reoffense.

Third, the vast majority of sex offenders including those who are incarcerated, will reside in the community. Therefore, it is essential to develop an approach to sex offender supervision and treatment that addresses the need to provide protection for the community and for victims, while at the same time involving elements of the community in the offender's treatment and supervision. Intensive supervision, including frequent home visits, contact with employers, and regular contact with family members including the victim help to facilitate supervision and to some extent contribute to meeting the offender's treatment needs. Utilizing other members of the professional community contributes to meeting the varied treatment needs of the offender and assists in maintaining adequate supervision.

Sex offenders share many common problems. At the same time, they are individuals with unique needs and problems. To effectively provide for their treatment and supervision it is necessary to have a program that addresses the offender's core issues but has the flexibility to adjust to the needs of each offender.