

**POSITION STATEMENT
OKLAHOMA COALITION FOR SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT
COMPREHENSIVE AND COLLABORATIVE**

A comprehensive and collaborative approach to sex offender management can help reduce offenders' sexually abusive behaviors. The Oklahoma Coalition for Sex Offender Management (OKCSOM) advocates for Oklahoma to manage sex offenders by using multidisciplinary teams who work together toward the unified goal of reducing recidivism. The groups involved in such collaborations should include victim advocates, criminal justice professionals (judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement officers), specialized correctional officials (both institutional and probation/parole), sex offender specific treatment providers; specialized polygraph examiners and others who have a stake in preventing future sexual assault.

A comprehensive and collaborative approach which is victim-centered brings those who have had divergent missions in the past together to work toward the common goal of reducing recidivism. Understanding the needs of victims allows advocates to inform supervision agents in order to enhance policy development and support supervision practices.

OKCSOM advocates for specialized approaches to sex offender supervision, promoting collaboration and information sharing among probation/parole officers and other practitioners who share responsibility for sex offender management. Such specialized approaches recognize the unique risks and needs of sex offenders. These unique risks and needs also dictate smaller caseloads which enable officers to improve their ability to monitor offenders.

Specialized psychosexual assessment is important to a comprehensive and collaborative approach. Such assessment should contain both recidivism risk assessment and risk management recommendations. Psychosexual assessment is crucial in aiding professionals in making decisions regarding treatment need and treatment amenability issues.

Specialized sex offender treatment is a further component of a comprehensive and collaborative approach. Such treatment is different from traditional methods of counseling in that the focus of treatment is the protection of victims as well as the community. While the treatment is victim-centered, it should be offender focused. Upon completion of treatment, clients should take responsibility for their offending behaviors, recognize the precursors to their offending patterns, learn specific cognitive/behavioral interventions for their offending behaviors, verbalize empathy for victims, understand the possible negative consequences of sexual abuse to victims and develop the ability to manage their dynamic risk factors. Polygraph assessment is an important asset for monitoring treatment and supervision compliance.