

POSITION STATEMENT SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT FOR ADULT MALES

The Oklahoma Coalition for Sex Offender Management (OKCSOM) defines sex offender specific treatment as programming designed to prevent recurring sexually abusive/aggressive behavior by helping offenders identify the precursors to their offending patterns, develop strategies to avoid or appropriately address risk factors, and enhance offender strengths so that they address their needs in pro-social ways.

The type and length of treatment depends on a variety of factors including the offenders' treatment needs, offense patterns, level of risk to recidivate and community support.

Current trends regarding treatment effectiveness suggest the benefits of cognitive/behavioral therapy. OKCSOM believes that treatment should be assessment driven and target the needs of the individual offender. Treatment plans should be developed for each offender in which treatment goals are agreed upon and specific strategies are understood by the offender. Client progress or lack of progress should be documented and shared with other professionals charged with the management of sex offenders.

OKCSOM believes that sexual offenders can benefit from sex offender specific treatment and that treatment completion is associated with lower recidivism risk. Social stability and support increase the likelihood of successful treatment outcomes.

Sex offender specific treatment should be an integral part of the overall approach used to successfully manage community based sex offenders. Treatment providers should establish collaborative professional relationships with local containment teams.

Treatment should be facilitated by licensed professionals with specialized training and experience. OKCSOM believes that Oklahoma should explore methods for providing oversight to sex offender specific treatment providers to ensure compliance with best practice approaches regarding the assessment and treatment of sexual offenders.