Sexual Assault Victims and Victim Offender Dialogue

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Victim Offender Dialogue

• Why might a victim of violent crime want to meet with the offender that victimized them?
Victim Offender Dialogue

• Program History

• What it is

• What it is not

• Benefits/Risks
Victim Offender Dialogue Steps

• Process Design
• Assessing and Preparing the Victim/Survivor
• Clarifying Victim/Survivor Objectives
• Identifying a Support Network
• Offender Accountability
• Preparing Participants
• In-Person Dialogue
Victim Offender Dialogue

- Why might a victim of sexual assault want to meet with the offender that victimized her/him?
- What might be some unique considerations for a mediator working with a victim of sexual assault and a sex offender?
Sexual Assault Case Evolution

• Case Staffing
• Committee Review
• Literature Review
• Training
• Testing
## Victim Offender Mediation Cases

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Unresolved</th>
<th>In-Person Mediation</th>
<th>Creative Alternative</th>
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## Victim Offender Mediation
### Sexual Assault Cases

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Sex Offender Behaviors

• Cognitive Distortions
• Thinking Errors
  – Victim Stance
  – Power & Entitlement
  – Blaming
  – Minimizing
• Manipulative
Sex Offenders

- Child victims
- Adult victims
- Crossover
Sex Offender Assessment

• Has the offender been in treatment?

• How does the offender describe the victim?

• How does the offender describe how they harmed the victim?

• How does the offender explain why he/she committed the offense?
The Mediator

• Initial Meeting

“How you talk about what you did will help me prepare for the possible in-person dialogue with _______.”

• Predictions
The Offender

- Who have you told the truth to? What was that like for you?

- Are you able to see yourself as a person of value in spite of this offense?
Prior to the Assault

• Tell me about the victim?

• What were some of the factors you looked for that you believe made it easier to target the victim?

• How did you groom the victim to be comfortable with physical contact?
The Assault

• What did you do?

• Do the police reports accurately describe the crime?

• If not, do you think the victim would agree with your description of the crime?
Child Sexual Assault

• *What role did threats play in the sexual assault(s)?*

• *Did the sexual assault(s) involve other physical violence?*

• *Describe how you were able to escalate the assaults?*
The Victim

• Who did the victim tell?

• Do you think the victim’s life would have been different if you had never sexually assaulted them? If so, how?

• Do you think the victim’s parents, siblings, spouse, extended family were harmed?
The Victim

• What are some questions/comments the victim might be too afraid to bring up with you?

• Do you feel any empathy for the victim? Do you have any remorse for what you did?

• How would you talk to the victim about that?
Victim Offender Dialogue

THE VICTIM’S EXPERIENCE
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