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# **THE SEXUAL PREDATOR**

## **LEGAL ISSUES • ASSESSMENT • TREATMENT**

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**Volume IV**

**Edited by  
Anita Schlank, Ph.D.**

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Marcus T. Boccaccini received his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Alabama. He is now an associate professor of clinical psychology at Sam Houston State University, where he maintains an active research program focusing on a variety of issues relating to the intersection of psychology and law. He has authored more than forty peer-reviewed publications, addressing issues that range from psychometric properties of measures used for forensic assessment to juror perceptions of courtroom testimony. Regarding sex offender civil commitment, he has conducted several sexually violent predator (SVP)-related studies and provided education to SVP-related agencies.

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Dennis Doren is the evaluation director at the Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center in Wisconsin. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a subspecialty in Crime and Delinquency Studies from Florida State University in 1983. Since mid-1994, Dr. Doren has conducted and testified about sex offender civil commitment evaluations, served as a consultant, and/or done training on risk assessment of sex offenders in all but two of the twenty jurisdictions with active sex offender civil commitment laws, as well as other places where civil commitments were not the main issue. His second book, published in 2002, was titled *Evaluating Sex Offenders: A Manual for Civil Commitments and Beyond*. His other publications concerning sex offender assessments include about four dozen articles in professional periodicals and book chapters. Dr. Doren has presented at various national and international conferences on topics related to the diagnostic and risk assessment of sexual offenders.

## **Jan L. Hindman, M.S., L.P.C.**

A trailblazer in the field of sexual abuse education, research, and treatment, Jan Hindman worked with sexual offenders and victims for thirty-four years before her untimely death in September 2007, prior to the completion of this chapter. Along with her husband, Mac, she established “Alexandria Associates” and the “The Hindman Foundation” in Oregon, publishing numerous books and providing assessment and treatment to sexual offenders, victims, and their families. Jan was a founding member of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, now a flourishing international organization with more than 2,100 members. She was ATSA’s first female board member and later president. She served in many other national endeavors,

including the Advisory Board of the National Resource Center on Child Sexual Abuse and the National Network for Juvenile Sex Offenders. Between 1991 and 2000, Jan developed and directed the Sex Offender Assessment and Sex Offender Day Treatment Programs at the Snake River Correctional Institution, Oregon Department of Corrections. Certified as a sex educator and trainer by the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists, Jan is probably best known for her lectures. Her ability to speak about the unspeakable with sensitivity, humility, humor, and insight was unmatched. For twenty-seven years, she inspired others with her unique perspectives in lectures to mental health professionals, law enforcement groups, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, child advocacy, and victims' groups in every state and most provinces of Canada. Many consider Jan's 1983 book, *A Very Touching Book . . . for Little People and for Big People*, the most effective sexual abuse prevention book ever written. Teaming with illustrator Tom Novak, their creative genius helped to clarify what sexual abuse is, and is not, by describing three categories of touching: good, bad, and secret. Good touching is pleasant and makes people feel good (e.g., hugging). Bad touching hurts people (e.g., hitting and pinching), and secret touching is just what it says it is—secret—and keeping that secret is not okay. The strength of their approach is that it prevents confusion about what is and is not molestation. Shortly before her death, Jan published *There Is No Sex Fairy—To Protect Our Children From Becoming Sexual Abusers*, completing her twenty-year goal of providing a resource that addresses the sexual abuse problem at its source—teaching adults how to teach sexual respect to children. She also wrote *Just Before Dawn: Trauma Assessment and Treatment of Sexual Victimization*, and the companion book, *The Mourning Breaks*, offering 101 treatment strategies to help victims in breaking the bonds of sexual abuse. Jan developed a protocol for interviewing children suspected of being sexually abused, and her publication *Step by Step: 16 Steps Toward Legally Sound Sexual Abuse Investigations* has been used by police academies and law enforcement training centers throughout the United States.

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Raymond Knight earned his doctorate at the University of Minnesota in 1973. He has been teaching at Brandeis University since 1971 and is currently the Mortimer Gryzmish Professor of Human Relations. He has been doing research on sexual aggression for the last thirty-one years. He has developed and validated both taxonomic and etiological models for rapists and child molesters and has completed a twenty-five-year follow-up of sex offenders released from the Massachusetts Treatment Center. He is currently validating the Multidimensional Inventory of Development, Sex, and Aggression (the MIDSA), which is a computerized contingency-based inventory that provides a comprehensive assessment of multiple critical areas of adaptation for juvenile and adult sexual offenders. He has over ninety publications in the areas of sexual aggression, psychopathy, and schizophrenia. He has served as president of both the Society for Research in Psychopathology and the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers; he is currently on the Executive Board of the Society for the Scientific Study of Psychopathy.

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James Peters is an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Boise, Idaho. He is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University and Lewis and Clark Law School. He was on the firing line as a deputy prosecuting attorney in the late 1970s and early 1980s as child sexual abuse emerged from the shadows and became a major criminal justice issue. After nearly eleven years as a state prosecutor, he went to the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse in Alexandria, Virginia, where he was Senior Attorney from 1987 to 1990. While there, he coauthored *Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse* (2nd ed.), published in 1993 by the American Prosecutors Research Institute. Mr. Peters was hired by the U.S. Department of Justice in 1990 as an Assistant U.S. Attorney on St. Croix, Virgin Islands. He transferred to the U.S. Attorney's office in the District of Idaho in 1994, where he has practiced since, specializing in child sexual abuse, Internet child exploitation, and violent crime cases. Mr. Peters has prosecuted more than 200 trials and handled thousands of child abuse and exploitation cases. He has lectured to police, mental health, and legal audiences around the United States and Canada for more than twenty years. A highlight of Mr. Peters's career happened in 2004, when he was temporarily detailed by the Department of Justice as a Special Master for the 9/11 Victim's Compensation Fund, adjudicating claims and hearing appeals of victims of the terrorist attacks. He was previously detailed to the Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity section in 2000–2001, where he created, edited, and coauthored *Prosecuting Internet Child Exploitation Crimes*, published as part of the Department of Justice's USABook online series for federal prosecutors. Mr. Peters has published more than sixty articles and book chapters, most relating to the prosecution of child sexual abuse and exploitation. He was the first lawyer to serve on the Advisory Board of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), and later was elected to ATSA's Executive Board of Directors. Along with Jan Hindman and others, he was a coauthor of *Practice Standards and Guidelines for Members of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers*, published by ATSA in 2001.

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# Introduction

“Just say the words ‘sex offender’ and the rabid mob called the public starts frothing at the mouth and baying at the moon” (Anonymous, 2008). That’s how a recent website begins its article, and it later notes that the problem is that the term is now practically meaningless as it sometimes seems to have been applied to teenagers having consensual sex with slightly younger teenagers. In the past few years, there appears to be as many people angered about what is perceived as unreasonable restriction of and stigmatizing of sexual offenders as there are people clamoring for more notification and restrictions. The same website noted that politicians “have passed asinine laws classifying more and more natural human behaviour as a sex crime.” Civil rights advocates and even some prominent sex crime prevention groups have opposed many of the more restrictive laws, noting that they appeal to voters but are basically ineffective. “They argue that almost all sex offender laws in the United States fail to solve the problem of sex crimes because they drive people underground, block paths to treatment and focus on a high-profile case, like that of 6-year-old Adam Walsh . . . and miss the fuller picture of sexual violence” (Win, 2008). There has been an outcry against Georgia’s strict residency laws that forbid a sexual offender to live within 1,000 feet of a school playground, church, or school bus stop, which essentially banishes them from some counties (Anonymous, 2006). Another website poked fun at Ohio’s plan to issue convicted sexual offenders with a special colored license plate, proposing instead that “they all wear hats that say ‘I (heart) the Axis of Evil.’ That way even the most car-tag-ignorant citizens will be able to pick out the bad guys” (Filler, 2007).

Like the registration, notification, and residency restriction laws, the sex offender civil commitment statutes continue to draw their fair share of criticism. One law professor’s blog even stated that “it’s better that a few children get raped each year than tens of millions of dollars in taxpayer money be spent to keep people who have served out their prison sentences incarcerated in perpetuity.” These laws continue to stir controversy due to the high cost to taxpayers, problems identifying who should actually be committed, slow release from the programs, and difficulty finding placements for those who do successfully complete the programs. For example, in California the state was noted to have made “269 attempts to find a home for one released pedophile. In Milwaukee, the authorities started to search in 2003 for a neighborhood for a 77-year-old offender, but have yet to find one” (Davey & Goodnough, 2007).

Throughout the hysteria and waves of criticism, states appear steadfast in their decision to maintain their civil commitment statutes for sexual offenders. Those employed by the SVP programs continue to work to provide the best assessment and treatment in extremely difficult circumstances. They attempt to be compassionate and helpful, and to offer treatment to an often very angry and hostile population, many of whom claim their attorneys have advised them to accept no treatment whatsoever. These examiners and treatment providers often also face some hostility from the community, both from those who believe the laws should have been found unconstitutional and those who view them as advocates for sexual offenders just by being will-

ing to treat them. It is hoped that society will eventually see that they should honor the diligent efforts of these professionals. This book is intended as one method of offering support for their work.

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# Table of Contents

About the Authors .....	v
Introduction .....	xiii

## **PART 1: LEGAL AND PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES**

### **Chapter 1: Being Accurate About the Accuracy of Sexual Offender Civil Commitment Evaluations**

*Dennis M. Doren, Ph.D.*

Introduction .....	1-3
Issues Concerning the Requisite Mental Health Condition .....	1-4
Description of the Zander Study .....	1-4
Pedophilia .....	1-4
Paraphilia NOS Nonconsent .....	1-5
Paraphilia NOS Hebephilia .....	1-5
Antisocial Personality Disorder .....	1-5
Inaccuracies in Zander Analysis .....	1-5
Pedophilia .....	1-5
Paraphilia NOS Nonconsent .....	1-6
Paraphilia NOS Hebephilia .....	1-8
Antisocial Personality Disorder .....	1-8
Correcting Zander’s Inaccuracies and Subsequent Implications .....	1-10
Description of the Abracen and Looman Study (Diagnoses) .....	1-10
Inaccuracies in Abracen and Looman Analysis .....	1-11
Conceptual Inaccuracies .....	1-11
Inaccuracy in Application .....	1-12
Correcting Abracen and Looman’s Inaccuracies and Subsequent Implications .....	1-12
Description of the Wollert Study .....	1-13
Inaccuracies in Wollert Analysis .....	1-13
IRR of “Mental Abnormality” .....	1-13
Reliability of Paraphilia NOS .....	1-14
Correcting Wollert’s Inaccuracies and Subsequent Implications .....	1-16
Description of Franklin’s Study .....	1-16
Inaccuracies in Franklin Analysis .....	1-16
Correcting Franklin’s Inaccuracies and Subsequent Implications .....	1-17
Issues Concerning Risk Assessment .....	1-17
Description of the Jackson, Rogers, and Shuman Study .....	1-18
Inaccuracies in Jackson et al. Analysis .....	1-18

Failure to Differentiate Between Recidivism Prediction  
and Risk Assessment ..... 1-18

An Improper Risk Assessment of the Case History  
Sample ..... 1-19

An Unrepresentative Case History Sample ..... 1-19

Analyses Incorrectly Based on Recidivist Acts and  
Over Too Short a Follow-up Time ..... 1-20

Inaccurate Conclusions ..... 1-20

Correcting Jackson et al.’s Inaccuracies and Subsequent  
Implications ..... 1-22

Description of Abracen and Looman Study (Risk Assessment) ..... 1-22

Inaccuracies in Abracen and Looman Analysis ..... 1-22

Correcting Abracen and Looman’s Inaccuracies and Subsequent  
Implications ..... 1-23

Description of the Hart, Michie, and Cook Study ..... 1-23

Inaccuracies in Hart et al. Analysis ..... 1-24

Invalid Assumptions ..... 1-24

Use of a Single Data Source Instead of the Multiple Data  
Sources Available ..... 1-24

Ignoring Cross-Validation Results in Favor of One  
Statistically Derived Finding ..... 1-24

Confusing Recidivism Prediction With Recidivism  
Risk Assessment ..... 1-25

Correcting Hart et al.’s Inaccuracies and Subsequent  
Implications ..... 1-25

Description of the Donaldson and Wollert Study ..... 1-26

Inaccuracies in Donaldson and Wollert Analysis ..... 1-26

Correcting Donaldson and Wollert’s Inaccuracies and  
Subsequent Implications ..... 1-27

Description of the Vrieze and Grove Study ..... 1-27

Inaccuracies in Vrieze and Grove Analysis ..... 1-27

Concerning the Prediction of Recidivism and the Relative  
Weight of “Incorrect Predictions” ..... 1-28

Concerning the Presumed Recidivism Base Rate ..... 1-30

Correcting Vrieze and Grove’s Inaccuracies and Subsequent  
Implications ..... 1-31

Conclusions/Future Directions ..... 1-31

## Chapter 2: Legal Issues Involving Sexually Violent Persons

*James C. Vlahakis, J.D.*

Introduction .....	2-2
Legal Standards Governing Civil Rights Litigation .....	2-4
<i>Kansas v. Hendricks</i> .....	2-4
<i>Seling v. Young</i> .....	2-4
<i>Youngberg v. Romeo</i> and the “Professional Judgment” Standard .....	2-5
Summary of the <i>Youngberg</i> Decision in the Lower	
Courts .....	2-5
The “Professional Judgment” Standard .....	2-6
Summary of SVP Cases Applying the Professional	
Judgment Standard .....	2-7
Miscellaneous Legal Issues .....	2-8
Violations of State Law, Standing Alone, Do Not	
Violate Constitution .....	2-8
Claims Involving Statutes and Regulations .....	2-8
Statutory Carveouts From Mental Health Statutes .....	2-9
The Americans With Disabilities Act .....	2-9
Qualified Immunity .....	2-9
Nonapplicability of Prison Litigation Reform Act to SVPs . . . .	2-10
Cases Involving Conditions of Confinement .....	2-10
Applicable Standard of Review .....	2-10
Conditions of Confinement—General Overview .....	2-11
Constitutionally Permissible Security Measures .....	2-13
Physical Restraints and Restrictive Movement .....	2-13
Strip Searches .....	2-13
Room Searches .....	2-13
Seclusion .....	2-14
Sex Offender Treatment-Related Claims .....	2-16
<i>Mckune v. Lille</i> .....	2-16
District Court Litigation .....	2-18
<i>Hargett v. Adams</i> (Illinois) .....	2-18
<i>Atwood v. Vislak</i> (Iowa) .....	2-22
<i>Turay v. Seling</i> (Washington) .....	2-23
<i>Hydrick v. Hunter</i> (California) .....	2-24
<i>Canupp v. Liberty Healthcare Corporation</i> (Florida) .....	2-25
<i>Strutton v. Meade</i> (Missouri) .....	2-25



*Spicer v. Richards* (Washington) . . . . . 2-28  
*Senty-Haugen v. Goodno* (Minnesota) . . . . . 2-29  
 Future Directions . . . . . 2-30

**Chapter 3: The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act and the Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators**

*Alisa Klein, M.A.I.P.S.*

Introduction . . . . . 3-1  
 Origins of the AWA and Title III . . . . . 3-2  
     In the U.S. House of Representatives . . . . . 3-2  
     In the Senate . . . . . 3-2  
 The Certification of Federal Sex Offenders as “Sexually Dangerous Persons” . . . . . 3-3  
     The Hearing Process . . . . . 3-5  
     Legal Challenges to AWA’s Amendment of Section 4248 . . . . . 3-6  
     Background on the BOP’s Sex Offender Population and Treatment Programs . . . . . 3-8  
     Release From Federal Civil Commitment . . . . . 3-9  
 Conclusions and Future Directions . . . . . 3-10

**Chapter 4: Sex Offender Residence Restrictions and Community Reentry**

*Jill Levenson, L.C.S.W., Ph.D.*

Introduction . . . . . 4-1  
 History and Intent of Residence Restrictions in the United States . . . . . 4-2  
 Effectiveness of Residence Restrictions . . . . . 4-3  
 Unintended Consequences of Residence Restrictions . . . . . 4-4  
     Housing Availability . . . . . 4-5  
     Criminal Reentry, Housing Instability, and Recidivism . . . . . 4-5  
     Psychosocial Consequences of Residence Restrictions . . . . . 4-6  
 Conclusions/Future Directions . . . . . 4-7

**Chapter 5: Living Under a Bridge Down by the River—An Eighth Amendment Look at the Government’s Housing of Paroled Sex Offenders Under a Bridge in Miami**

*Ryan Saylor, J.D.*

Introduction . . . . . 5-2  
 History and Application of Eighth Amendment . . . . . 5-3  
     History of Eighth Amendment . . . . . 5-3  
     Eighth Amendment and Conditions of Confinement . . . . . 5-4

Overcrowding ..... 5-5

Sanitation ..... 5-6

Environmental Tobacco Smoke ..... 5-6

Residence Restrictions for Paroled or Released Sex Offenders ..... 5-7

    Georgia’s Sex Offender Residence Restriction Law and the  
    Takings Clause of the U.S. Constitution ..... 5-7

    Iowa’s Sex Offender Residence Restriction Law and the  
    Double Jeopardy Clause of the U.S. Constitution ..... 5-8

    Florida’s Sex Offender Residence Restriction Law and the Effect  
    of Making Entire Cities Off Limits to Paroled Sex Offenders ..... 5-9

    Private Sex Offender Registration Schemes ..... 5-9

Conditions of Parole ..... 5-10

Applying the Eighth Amendment and Parole Frameworks  
to Sex Offender Residence Restriction Laws ..... 5-10

    Sex Offender Residence Restriction Laws Bear No Rational  
    Relationship to Public Safety ..... 5-10

    Forcing Parolees to Live Under Bridges Is Cruel and Unusual  
    Punishment Within the Meaning of the Eighth Amendment ..... 5-11

    The State and Jailors Are Deliberately Indifferent to the  
    Parolees’ Housing Conditions ..... 5-13

Conclusion and Future Directions ..... 5-13

**Chapter 6: Civil Management of Sex Offenders—The New York Experience**

*Richard Miraglia, L.C.S.W.*

Introduction ..... 6-2

Historical Perspective ..... 6-2

    Sex Offender Management in New York State (1950–1972) ..... 6-2

    Sex Offender Management in New York State (1995–2007) ..... 6-4

Civil Commitment of Sex Offenders Pursuant to MHL Article 9:  
September 12, 2005–April 13, 2007 ..... 6-5

    Application of MHL Article 9 in the Civil Commitment  
    of Sex Offenders ..... 6-7

    OMH and DOCS Implementation of the Executive  
    Directive ..... 6-8

    Legal Challenges to MHL § 9.27: Court of Appeals  
    Decisions ..... 6-11

    Response to the Court of Appeals Decisions ..... 6-12

SOMTA: Civil Management of Sex Offenders Pursuant to MHL  
Article 10: April 13, 2007–Present ..... 6-14

Overview of SOMTA: Legislative Intent ..... 6-14

Executive Law § 837-r ..... 6-15

Correction Law § 622 ..... 6-16

MHL Article 10: Civil Management ..... 6-17

    Key Definitions ..... 6-17

    Overview of Procedures for Civil Management ..... 6-18

    Overview of Screening and Assessment Process ..... 6-19

    Overview of OMH’s Treatment Program: Secure  
        Treatment Facilities ..... 6-23

    Overview of Strict and Intensive Supervision and  
        Treatment ..... 6-26

SOMTA: Future Directions ..... 6-27

**Chapter 7: A Look at Minnesota’s Use of Civil Commitment of Sex Offenders—Getting Out of a Corner Into Which We’ve Painted Ourselves**

*Warren Maas, J.D., M.A.*

Introduction ..... 7-1

    Political Will or Partisan Politics? ..... 7-2

    Civil Commitment for Rehabilitation or Punishment? ..... 7-3

Determining Risk of Reoffending ..... 7-3

Barriers to a More Rational Policy ..... 7-4

Change in Focus Needed ..... 7-6

Finding Our Way Out of the Corner: Future Directions ..... 7-7

**PART 2: ASSESSMENT ISSUES**

**Chapter 8: Ethical Challenges in Sex Offender Civil Commitment Evaluations—Applying Imperfect Science in Adversarial Proceedings**

*Daniel C. Murrie, Ph.D., Marcus T. Boccaccini, Ph.D. and Darrel B. Turner, M.A.*

Introduction ..... 8-2

Acknowledging the Pull of an Adversarial System ..... 8-3

    Evaluator Agreement ..... 8-3

    Adversarial Allegiance ..... 8-4

Acknowledging the Limits of Available Science ..... 8-5

    Diagnosis ..... 8-6

    Volitional Impairment ..... 8-12

    Risk Assessment and Actuarial Measure ..... 8-12

Ethical Challenges in SVP Evaluations ..... 8-14

    Ethical Challenge 1: Working Toward Clarity, Candor, and  
        Neutrality in Diagnosis ..... 8-16

Ethical Challenge 2: Working Toward Clarity, Candor, and  
 Neutrality When Addressing Volitional Impairment . . . . . 8-18

Ethical Challenge 3: Working Toward Clarity, Candor, and  
 Neutrality in Risk Assessment . . . . . 8-19

Ethical Challenge 4: Working Toward Clarity, Candor, and  
 Neutrality in Testimony . . . . . 8-29

Summary and Future Directions . . . . . 8-30

**Chapter 9: Advances in Risk Assessment for Sex Offender Civil  
 Commitment**

*Rebecca L. Jackson, Ph.D.*

Introduction . . . . . 9-1

Advances in Actuarial Risk Assessment . . . . . 9-3

    Static-99/2002 . . . . . 9-3

    Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests . . . . . 9-5

Advances in Dynamic Risk Assessment . . . . . 9-6

    Stable 2007 . . . . . 9-6

    Violence Risk Scale: Sex Offender Version . . . . . 9-7

Psychopathy and the PCL-R . . . . . 9-8

Summary and Future Directions . . . . . 9-10

**Chapter 10: A Case for Using Multiple Actuarial Scales**

*Dennis M. Doren, Ph.D.*

Introduction . . . . . 10-2

Current Areas of Debate . . . . . 10-2

    Accurate Recidivism Risk Percentages? . . . . . 10-2

    Use One Actuarial Instrument or More? . . . . . 10-3

        The “Single Best Instrument” Model . . . . . 10-3

        Evidence Contrary to the SBI Model . . . . . 10-3

        Potential Resolution . . . . . 10-4

Study 1 . . . . . 10-6

    Defining “High Risk” . . . . . 10-6

    Instrumentation Independence or Not . . . . . 10-6

    Time Frame of Relevance . . . . . 10-7

    Method . . . . . 10-8

        Subjects . . . . . 10-8

        Recidivism Measure . . . . . 10-8

        Risk Assessment Instruments . . . . . 10-8

    Analyses . . . . . 10-8

    Results . . . . . 10-9

Static-99 “High Risk” as Compared to RRASOR  
 Scores ..... 10-9  
 RRASOR “High Risk” as Compared to Static-99  
 Scores ..... 10-9  
 Overall Long-Term “High Risk” Recidivism Rates ..... 10-9  
 Overall Scale Accuracy Comparison ..... 10-12  
 Discussion ..... 10-12  
 Study 2 ..... 10-12  
 Method ..... 10-12  
 Results ..... 10-13  
 When Static-99 = 6+ ..... 10-13  
 When RRASOR = 4+ ..... 10-13  
 When Neither Static-99 = 6+ Nor RRASOR = 4+ ..... 10-15  
 Overall Recidivism Rate ..... 10-15  
 Discussion ..... 10-16  
 Conclusions; Future Directions ..... 10-16

**Chapter 11: Single Instrument vs. Multidimensional Model Risk Assessment—Resolution and the Risk Profile**

*Dennis M. Doren, Ph.D.*

Introduction ..... 11-2  
 Evidential Support Concerning the “Single Best Instrument” Model ..... 11-3  
 Comparisons of Current Risk Assessment Measures’ Effect  
 Sizes ..... 11-3  
 Comparisons Within the Same Sample ..... 11-3  
 Comparisons Through Meta-analysis ..... 11-5  
 Summary and Conclusions About Comparative Effect Sizes  
 Among Instruments ..... 11-5  
 The Utility of Atheoretical Combinations of Risk Factors ..... 11-6  
 Will Any Combination of Risk Factors Do? ..... 11-6  
 Summary and Conclusions About Atheoretical Combinations  
 of Risk Factors ..... 11-7  
 The Effect of Risk Factor Scoring Methods ..... 11-7  
 Investigation ..... 11-7  
 Conclusions About Risk Factor Scoring Methods ..... 11-7  
 Conclusions About the Single Best Instrument Model ..... 11-8  
 Evidential Support Concerning the Multidimensional Model ..... 11-8  
 Multiple Scale Comparisons Suggestive of Scale-Specific  
 Risk Outcomes ..... 11-8  
 Combining Static and Dynamic Risk Variables in Assessing  
 Recidivism Risk ..... 11-10

Factor-Analytic Studies of Sexual Recidivism Risk Indicators . . . . . 11-11

Conclusions About the Multidimensional Model . . . . . 11-15

Integrating What Is Known—The Use of a Risk Profile . . . . . 11-15

Hypothesized Factor Structure for Sexual Recidivism Risk

    Factors . . . . . 11-16

The Role of Protective, Environmental, and Biological

    Factors . . . . . 11-17

The Risk Profile . . . . . 11-17

    The Use of the Risk Profile . . . . . 11-20

    The Development of the Risk Profile . . . . . 11-21

    The Potential Benefits of the Risk Profile . . . . . 11-22

    Risk Assessments in the Meanwhile . . . . . 11-22

Conclusions/Future Directions . . . . . 11-23

**Chapter 12: Applying the U.S. Secret Service Threat Assessment Model to the Risk Assessment of Unique Sexual Offenders**

*Susan J. Sachsenmaier, Ph.D.*

Introduction . . . . . 12-3

Selection of a Model or Risk Assessment . . . . . 12-3

    Unstructured Clinical Judgment . . . . . 12-4

    Actuarial Risk Assessment . . . . . 12-4

    Structured Empirically Guided Clinical Judgment . . . . . 12-5

The U.S. Secret Service Threat Assessment Model . . . . . 12-7

Principles of the USSS Threat Assessment Model . . . . . 12-8

Case Application: Risk Assessment With the Secret Service Threat

    Assessment Model . . . . . 12-10

    Discernible and Understandable Progression of Thinking

        and Behavior . . . . . 12-10

    Interaction Among Potential Attacker, Past Stressful Events,

        Current Situation, and Target . . . . . 12-10

        Identification of the Potential Attacker’s Attack-Related

            Thoughts and Behaviors . . . . . 12-13

            1. What Motivated Subject to Make the Statements, or

                Take the Action, That Caused Him/Her to Come to

                Attention? . . . . . 12-13

            2. What Has Subject Communicated Concerning His/Her

                Intentions? . . . . . 12-13

            3. Has Subject Shown Interest in Targeted Violence,

                Perpetrators of Violence, Weapons, Extremist Groups,

                or Murder? . . . . . 12-13

            4. Has Subject Engaged in Attack-Related Behavior? . . . . . 12-14

5. Subject Have History of Mental Illness or Substance Abuse Problems That Have Led to Violence Against Others? . . . . .	12-14
6. How Organized Is Subject? . . . . .	12-14
7. Has Subject Experienced Recent Loss and/or Loss of Status, Leading to Feelings of Desperation and Despair? . . . . .	12-14
8. Corroboration: What Is Subject Saying and Is It Consistent With His/Her Actions? . . . . .	12-14
9. Is There Concern Among Those Who Know the Subject That He/She Might Take Action Based on Inappropriate Ideas? . . . . .	12-15
10. What Factors in Subject’s Life and/or Environment Might Increase/Decrease Likelihood of Subject Attempting to Attack Target? . . . . .	12-15
Development and Generalization of the Threat Assessment Model . . . . .	12-16
Background . . . . .	12-16
Conceptual Shift . . . . .	12-17
Duty to Protect . . . . .	12-17
Summary . . . . .	12-18
Threat Assessment Model and Principles of Forensic Mental Health Assessment . . . . .	12-19
Ten Principles . . . . .	12-19
Identify Relevant Forensic Issues . . . . .	12-20
Select Most Appropriate Model to Guide Data Gathering, Interpretation, and Communication . . . . .	12-20
Use Multiple Sources of Information for Each Area Being Assessed . . . . .	12-20
Use Relevance and Reliability (Validity) as Guides for Seeking Information and Selecting Data Sources . . . . .	12-20
Obtain Relevant Historical Information . . . . .	12-20
Assess Clinical Characteristics in Relevant, Reliable, and Valid Ways . . . . .	12-20
Assess Legally Relevant Behavior . . . . .	12-21
Use Case-Specific (Idiographic) Evidence in Assessing Clinical Condition, Functional Abilities, and Causal Connection . . . . .	12-21
Use Nomothetic Evidence in Assessing Clinical Condition, Functional Abilities, and Causal Connections . . . . .	12-21
Use Scientific Reasoning in Assessing Causal Connection Between Clinical Condition and Functional Abilities . . . . .	12-21



Using the Model as Designed .....	12-21
Admissibility of the Threat Assessment Model in Judicial Proceedings .....	12-21
Summary and Future Directions .....	12-23

### **Chapter 13: The Sexual Psychopath—Current Understanding and Future Challenges**

*Stephen Porter, Ph.D., Sabrina Demetrio, B.A. and Leanne ten Brinke, B.S.*

Introduction .....	13-1
The Diversity of Sexual Violence and Perpetrator Characteristics .....	13-2
What Is a Sexual Psychopath? .....	13-3
Interpersonal/Affective Motivators of the Sexual Psychopath .....	13-4
Affective Deficits .....	13-4
Impulsivity .....	13-5
Thrill Seeking .....	13-7
Paraphilias and the Sexual Psychopath .....	13-7
Darwinian Explanation of the Sexual Psychopath .....	13-9
Interventions With the Sexual Psychopath .....	13-10
Summary and Future Directions .....	13-12

### **Chapter 14: Determining the Effect Offender Aging Has on Sexual Recidivism Risk**

*Dennis M. Doren, Ph.D.*

Introduction .....	14-2
Is the Overall Relationship Between Sexual Recidivism and Offender Age Linear, Curvilinear, or Nonexistent? .....	14-4
Interpreting Study Results .....	14-5
Findings Across Studies .....	14-6
Summary .....	14-8
Do All Curvilinear Relationship Findings Look Alike? .....	14-9
Findings Across Studies .....	14-9
Summary .....	14-11
Does Being a Rapist vs. Being a Child Molester Matter? .....	14-11
Interpreting Study Results .....	14-12
Findings Across Studies .....	14-13
Summary .....	14-16
Does Source of Risk Matter? .....	14-16
Sexual Deviance Driven Risk vs. General Antisociality	
Driven Risk .....	14-16
Summary .....	14-17

Does Jurisdiction Matter? . . . . . 14-18  
     United States vs. Other Countries . . . . . 14-18  
     Summary . . . . . 14-18  
 What Is the Effect of Advanced Age on Historically Assessed  
     Recidivism Risk? . . . . . 14-19  
     Interpreting Study Results . . . . . 14-19  
     Summary . . . . . 14-22  
 Does Age at First Offense vs. Age at Release Matter? . . . . . 14-22  
     Interpreting Study Results . . . . . 14-22  
     Summary . . . . . 14-23  
 Is There an Age Threshold After Which Risk Must Be “Low”? . . . . . 14-24  
     Interpreting Study Results . . . . . 14-24  
     Findings Across Studies . . . . . 14-25  
     Summary . . . . . 14-27  
 Does Aging While Incarcerated Matter? . . . . . 14-30  
     Aging in Prison Not Related to Lowered Recidivism Rates . . . . . 14-30  
     Summary . . . . . 14-31  
 Overall Conclusions/Future Directions . . . . . 14-31

**Chapter 15: Assessment for Treatment Planning Purposes**

*Anita Schlank, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.*

Introduction . . . . . 15-1  
 Multidisciplinary Approach to Assessment . . . . . 15-1  
 Psychological Assessment . . . . . 15-2  
     Intellectual Functioning . . . . . 15-2  
     Educational Achievement/Learning Disabilities . . . . . 15-3  
     Psychopathology . . . . . 15-4  
     Psychosexual Disorder/Sexual Compulsivity . . . . . 15-5  
     Substance Abuse . . . . . 15-8  
     Cognitive Distortions/Pro-Criminal Attitudes . . . . . 15-8  
     Psychopathy . . . . . 15-9  
     Neuropsychological Screening . . . . . 15-9  
 Other Issues for Assessment . . . . . 15-9  
 Summary . . . . . 15-10

**Chapter 16: Assessing Inpatient Treatment Progress: The Development of the Dynamic Treatment Monitoring Scale**

*Stacey Katz-Schiavone, M.A. and Jennifer E. Schneider, Ph.D.*

Introduction . . . . . 16-2  
 Measuring Treatment Progress . . . . . 16-3  
     Goal Attainment Scaling . . . . . 16-3

The Sex Offender Treatment Rating Scale . . . . .	16-5
The Sex Offender Treatment Needs and Progress Scale . . . . .	16-6
The Evolution of Dynamic Treatment Assessment . . . . .	16-8
Sex Offender Need Assessment Rating . . . . .	16-10
The Stable and Acute . . . . .	16-10
Assessment in Practice—New Jersey’s Special Treatment Unit . . . . .	16-11
Measuring Treatment Progress at the STU . . . . .	16-12
The Dynamic Treatment Monitoring Scale . . . . .	16-13
Variable 1: Admission of Sexual Criminal History/ Acceptance of Responsibility . . . . .	16-13
Variable 2: Victim Empathy . . . . .	16-14
Variable 3: Victim Blaming . . . . .	16-14
Variable 4: Deviant Sexual Attitudes . . . . .	16-15
Variable 5: Sexual Interest . . . . .	16-16
Variable 6: Sexual Behavior . . . . .	16-16
Variable 7: Sexual Risk Management . . . . .	16-16
Variable 8: Sex Offender Treatment Cooperation . . . . .	16-17
Variable 9: Substance Abuse Treatment Cooperation . . . . .	16-17
Variable 10: Anger Management Treatment Cooperation . . . . .	16-18
Variable 11: Rule-Breaking Attitudes . . . . .	16-19
Variable 12: Nonsexual Rule-Breaking Behavior . . . . .	16-19
Variable 13: Emotion Management . . . . .	16-20
Variable 14: Problem Solving/Life Skills . . . . .	16-20
Variable 15: Intimacy and Relationships . . . . .	16-21
Variable 16: Social Influences/Involvement . . . . .	16-21
Variable 17: Discharge Planning . . . . .	16-22
Summary . . . . .	16-23

## **Chapter 17: Typologies for Rapists—The Generation of a New Structural Model**

*Raymond A. Knight, Ph.D.*

Introduction . . . . .	17-2
Brief History of Taxonomic Systems of Rapists . . . . .	17-2
MTC Taxonomic Program . . . . .	17-3
Overview of Present Chapter . . . . .	17-4
Structure and Types of MTC:R3 . . . . .	17-5
Structure of MTC:R3 . . . . .	17-5
Description and Characteristics of MTC:R3 Types . . . . .	17-5
Opportunistic Types . . . . .	17-5
Pervasively Angry Type . . . . .	17-6

Sexual Types . . . . . 17-6

Vindictive Types . . . . . 17-8

Reliability and Validity of MTC:R3 . . . . . 17-8

    Summary of the MTC Program Validity Studies . . . . . 17-8

    Problems With MTC:R3 . . . . . 17-9

        Sexualization Problem . . . . . 17-10

        Creation of the MASA to Resolve the Sexualization  
            Problem . . . . . 17-11

The Revision of MTC-R3: Solving the Major Structural Problems . . . . . 17-14

    Structural Problem #1—Vindictive Types/Violence . . . . . 17-14

        Flipping the Non-Psychopathic Side (Types 6–9) . . . . . 17-14

        Linear to Circular . . . . . 17-16

    Structural Problem #2—Sexualization . . . . . 17-16

        Critical Components of Sexualization . . . . . 17-17

        Structural Equation Modeling of Sexual Aggression . . . . . 17-17

Relating the New Circumplex Model to the SEM Etiology Model . . . . . 17-19

Dimensions vs. Taxons . . . . . 17-21

Brief Description of the Revised Model . . . . . 17-22

Conclusion/Future Directions . . . . . 17-24

**Chapter 18: Empirically Based Recidivism Risk Assessment Estimate  
Extrapolations Across Time and Outcome Measure**

*Dennis M. Doren, Ph.D.*

Introduction . . . . . 18-1

Study 1: Recidivism Rates Over Time . . . . . 18-3

    Method . . . . . 18-3

    Results . . . . . 18-4

Study 2: Across Multiple Recidivism Measures . . . . . 18-6

    Method . . . . . 18-6

    Results . . . . . 18-7

Practice Implications . . . . . 18-10

**PART 3: TREATMENT ISSUES**

**Chapter 19: Process Groups in Sexual Civil Commitment Programs**

*Merrill Main, Ph.D. and Jennifer E. Schneider, Ph.D.*

Introduction . . . . . 19-2

Advantages of Group Therapy . . . . . 19-3

Elements of and Techniques for Effective Group Therapy . . . . . 19-3

    Curative Factors . . . . . 19-3

    Strategies and Techniques . . . . . 19-5

Goals of Group Treatment . . . . .	19-5
Characteristics of Effective Group Leaders . . . . .	19-6
Factors That Influence Treatment Outcome . . . . .	19-6
Group Treatment for Sex Offenders . . . . .	19-6
Prevalence . . . . .	19-6
Participants' View of Process Groups . . . . .	19-7
The Process of Group Process . . . . .	19-7
Frequency and Duration of Groups . . . . .	19-8
Feasibility and Depth . . . . .	19-8
Core Issues in Process Groups . . . . .	19-9
Techniques of Process Group for Sexual Offenders . . . . .	19-10
Taking the Floor . . . . .	19-11
Managing the Level of Intensity . . . . .	19-12
Managing the Focus of a Group . . . . .	19-12
Managing the Level of Challenging Interactions . . . . .	19-12
Managing the Tone . . . . .	19-13
Setting and Following Rules . . . . .	19-13
Documentation . . . . .	19-14
Issues to Avoid in Process Group . . . . .	19-15
Security Considerations . . . . .	19-15
Dealing With Problem Groups and Group Members . . . . .	19-15
Common Problems . . . . .	19-15
Dealing With the Dynamics of Dysfunction . . . . .	19-16
Approaches Toward Some Identifiable "Difficult"	
Group Members . . . . .	19-17
The Derailing Group Member . . . . .	19-17
The Junior Therapist . . . . .	19-18
The Silent Group Member . . . . .	19-18
Working With Co-Leaders . . . . .	19-18
Group vs. Individual Therapy . . . . .	19-19
Therapist Self-Disclosure . . . . .	19-20
Summary . . . . .	19-20

## **Chapter 20: Shedding Light on the Histories of Sex Offenders Using Clinical Polygraphy**

*Jan L. Hindman, M.S., L.P.C. and James M. Peters, J.D.*

Introduction . . . . .	20-2
Civil Commitment of Mentally Disordered Sexual Offenders . . . . .	20-2
Disassembling: A Way of Life for Sex Offenders: . . . . .	20-3
Self-Reports Minimize Extent of Offenses . . . . .	20-3
Getting Beyond Self-Serving Self-Reporting . . . . .	20-4

Challenging the Sex-Offender-as-Victim Paradigm . . . . . 20-5

Background of the Oregon Studies . . . . . 20-6

    Prosecutor’s Conditional Immunity Agreement . . . . . 20-6

    Information Gathering, Confrontation, and Verification . . . . . 20-7

The 1988 Study . . . . . 20-7

    Self-Report Only vs. Self-Report Plus Polygraph . . . . . 20-7

    Adults vs. Juveniles . . . . . 20-8

Replicating the Data: 1994 Study . . . . . 20-9

    Results Similar to Those of Earlier Study . . . . . 20-9

    Gender of Victims in 1994 Study . . . . . 20-10

    Juvenile Offenders in 1994 Study . . . . . 20-10

Replicating the Data: 1999 Study . . . . . 20-12

Analog Data Collection and Other Polygraph Studies . . . . . 20-13

Tough Laws, Unintended Results . . . . . 20-14

Levels of Juvenile Culpability: Assessing Degree of

    Criminal Responsibility . . . . . 20-15

    Program and Study in Malheur County . . . . . 20-15

    Effect of Polygraph Verification on Reports of Trac I

        Juvenile Sex Offenders . . . . . 20-17

Sexual Deviancy Assessments, Polygraphs, and Plea Agreements . . . . . 20-17

Judicial Recognition of Sex Offender Treatment . . . . . 20-18

    Court-Mandated Polygraphy for Sex Offenders . . . . . 20-18

    When Treatment Goals Collide With the Fifth Amendment . . . . . 20-19

Polygraph Testing and Disclosure Can Benefit Civilly Committed

    Offenders . . . . . 20-20

    Barriers to Mandated Polygraph Monitoring . . . . . 20-20

    Immunity for Incriminating Statements Made in Treatment . . . . . 20-21

    Implications of Polygraph Testing in Negotiated Pleas and at

        Sentencing . . . . . 20-22

Summary . . . . . 20-23

Conclusions/Future Directions . . . . . 20-24

**Chapter 21: Conditional Release of Civilly Committed Sexual Offenders**

*Shan Jumper, Ph.D.*

Introduction . . . . . 21-1

Pathways to Conditional Release . . . . . 21-3

    Pathway 1: Conditional Release at Time of Commitment . . . . . 21-5

    Pathway 2: Conditional Release Following Secure Inpatient

        Treatment . . . . . 21-5

Transition From Secure Inpatient Settings . . . . . 21-6

Outpatient Civil Commitment: The Texas Approach . . . . .	21-8
Managing the Sexually Violent Predator in the Community . . . . .	21-9
Role of GPS in Monitoring . . . . .	21-11
Barriers to Community Reentry . . . . .	21-12
Residency Restrictions . . . . .	21-12
High-Profile Media Coverage . . . . .	21-14
Clinical Issues . . . . .	21-15
Revocation of Conditional Release and Return to Secure Setting . . . . .	21-15
Conclusions/Future Directions . . . . .	21-16

## **Chapter 22: The Baby, the Bathwater, and Pendulum Swings—The Need to Slow Down and Evaluate Research Critically**

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Introduction . . . . .	22-1
Quality of Research Design . . . . .	22-2
Need for Replication . . . . .	22-3
Limitations to Meta-Analyses . . . . .	22-4
Treatment Models . . . . .	22-6
Cognitive-Behavioral/Relapse Prevention–Based Programs . . . . .	22-6
The Risk–Need–Responsivity Model . . . . .	22-7
The Self-Regulation Model . . . . .	22-7
The “Good Lives” Model . . . . .	22-8
Combining Risk–Need–Responsivity Model, Relapse Prevention, Self-Regulation, “Good Lives Model,” and Motivational Interviewing . . . . .	22-9
Summary and Future Directions . . . . .	22-9

<b>Appendix 1: Bibliography . . . . .</b>	<b>A-1</b>
---	------------

<b>Table of Acronyms . . . . .</b>	<b>T-1</b>
------------------------------------	------------

<b>Table of Cases and Statutes . . . . .</b>	<b>T-5</b>
--	------------

<b>Index . . . . .</b>	<b>I-1</b>
------------------------	------------