

RISK SEXUAL SAFETY PLAN User Manual

Use. The *Sexual Safety Plan* can be used either by itself or in conjunction with the ***Previdence Risk Evaluation (PRE)***. The *Sexual Safety Plan* has been found to be most useful when an evaluator wishes to assess the sexual environment and related concerns of a specific alleged sex offender in a target environment. In order to accommodate different situations the words “alleged offender” is used to represent those individuals who have already been convicted of a sexual offense as well as those who are only suspected of inappropriate sexual behavior. Any adult family member or significant other with knowledge and access to the alleged offender's environment can complete the *Sexual Safety Plan*. The plan limits the time period being evaluated to the next *six months*. Therefore, interpretations of the plan should be qualified with this time frame, "the next six months."

Purpose. A *Sexual Safety Plan* is developed to assist an alleged offender and his/her family or significant other in managing future sexual risks. The goal of a Safety Plan is to prevent any inappropriate sexual behavior in the least restrictive environment possible. Typically a Safety Plan includes a careful assessment of:

- (a.) The alleged offender's sexual environment including
 - access to potential victims,
 - identifying who has knowledge of the alleged offender's sexual behavior, and
 - access to sexual materials.
- (b.) The level of monitoring/ supervision available to the alleged offender.
- (c.) The identification of rules governing the alleged offender's personal behavior.
- (d.) The willingness of the alleged offender and his/her family or significant other to report inappropriate behavior and comply with the elements of the plan.
- (e.) And, to ensure the elements of the plan have been communicated and agreed to by necessary parties.

The **Previdence Sexual Safety Plan** gathers and provides written documentation of this information.

Administration. Ideally, it is recommended that a responsible adult, typically a family member complete the *Sexual Safety Plan*. The evaluator first writes in the name of the alleged offender and the identification of the specific target environment & or residence being assessed. The evaluator then gives the form to the family member to be completed at a later time. The evaluator gives the following instructions “*Please read and follow the instructions. Unless otherwise specified complete the form as conditions now exist. When the form is completed review the information with the alleged offender and both you and the alleged offender sign in the appropriate place.*”

After the completed form is returned, the evaluator reviews the document as it is written. The evaluator completes the section entitled “*For evaluator use only*” on the bottom of the last page. First, the evaluator will mark whether those adults living at the target environment have completed a criminal background check (NCIC). This is to ensure the target environment is maximally safe. For example, that no adult sex offenders are at the residence. Next, the evaluator initials whether the plan is “adequate” or “inadequate” and then signs and dates the form. If the plan is judged inadequate, then typically a new and revised *Sexual Safety Plan* should eventually be completed. The evaluator may wish to assist the responsible adult in completing the subsequent *Sexual Safety Plan*. Remember, the *Sexual Safety Plan* must represent the environment and rules as they

“now exist.” For example, if a decision is made to put motion detectors on the bedroom doors then the detectors should be purchased and installed *before* included in the *Sexual Safety Plan*.

Understanding the importance of the “target environment &/or residence.” An appropriate sexual safety plan requires not only an assessment of the individual, but also an assessment of the individual’s future environment. **Any assessment made about the likelihood of future sexual behavior must always be provided with reference to some specific environment.** The risk associated with a specific alleged sex offender varies greatly given the environment s/he is in. The *Sexual Safety Plan* assists the evaluator in evaluating that environment. An example of how “environment” influences the level of risk associated with an alleged sex offender can be illustrated with the following example of a pedophile. A pedophile in a nursing home encircled by elderly people is at low risk of sexual perpetration. The same pedophile placed in a general population of a prison may be at risk of being victimized by other inmates. Finally, this pedophile placed in a nursery school with unsupervised access to many younger children would be at a very high risk of reoffending. Simply said, the same pedophile on the same day given a different environment could be at low risk for perpetration (nursing home), high risk for being victimized (general population of a prison), and high risk for perpetration (nursery school). The *Sexual Safety Plan* does *not* assign any value judgment as to the level of risk any particular environment might create for a specific alleged offender, that responsibility belongs to the evaluator. The safety plan simply provides information where by the evaluator can make the judgment. A thorough understanding of the target environment & /or residence is critical in the development of a safety plan.

Rationale. It is generally accepted by most experts that patterned sex offenders typically exhibit “maintenance” and “grooming” behaviors. **Grooming behaviors** are behaviors exhibited by the alleged offender like flirting. Access to a potential victim is always required to perform grooming behaviors. Grooming behaviors are targeted toward one person or one type of person. **Maintenance behaviors** are any behavior that feeds into the sexual problem and maintains abusive and/or deviant sexual thoughts and behaviors. Maintenance behaviors are not targeted toward any one person. They are the things and/or activities the alleged offender does that keep him/her thinking and talking about sex. Pornography use is an example of a maintenance behavior. Grooming and maintenance behaviors support and reinforce sexual offending and tend to increase risk to offend. It is believed a given environment can increase the likelihood of sexual thoughts and behavior. By carefully managing an alleged offender’s environment, a lower risk level can often be obtained. A *Sexual Safety Plan* is one way to document this process.

Definitions for selected terms

Target environment &/or residence. This part of the form is typically completed by the evaluator. It can be a specific street address or any other location or combination of locations. The target environment can be a current location or future placement. Nevertheless, an accurate description of the environment is foundation for the remaining form. The evaluator should verbally instruct the person completing the form that the *Sexual Safety Plan* should be completed with the target environment & /or residence in mind.

Within walking distance. *Within walking distance* is that distance perceived by the alleged offender and his/her significant others to be within walking distance of the target environment & /or residence. The distance is variable. For one alleged offender it may be those facilities across the street. For another walking distance may be perceived several miles away.

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