

BETTER TOGETHER

2018 ATSA Conference | Friday October 19 | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

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How to Conduct "Sexual Abuser Risk of Sexual Harm to Children Assessments" Using the ROSAC

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Mental health, corrections, and child protective services professionals are commonly asked to assess the risk a sexual abuser poses to a particular child and under what circumstances, if any, the abuser might safely be allowed to have contact with the child. The Risk of Sexual Abuse of Children (ROSAC: McGrath, Allin, & Cumming, 2015) is a structured professional judgment assessment instrument for conducting these types of risk of sexual abuse assessments.

The ROSAC is composed of 30 items that are linked to the risk of sexual abuse to children. Items are scored on a 3-point scale and are grouped into three categories, namely, considerations concerning the (1) abuser, (2) child at potential risk, and (3) primary caregiver.

The workshop will be divided into two parts. First, we will briefly review the theoretical and research basis for the ROSAC. Second, we will use a case study to illustrate how to score and use the instrument for risk determination and safety planning purposes.

Learning Goals:

- Describe the theoretical and research basis for the ROSAC
- Describe how the ROSAC is constructed and scored
- Illustrate how the ROSAC is used to make risk determinations and develop safety plans

Robert McGrath, M. A. is in private practice and is the former Clinical Director of the Vermont Department of Corrections statewide network of prison and community sex offender treatment programs. Among his publications, he is co-author of the books *Supervision of the Sex Offender* and *Current Practices and Emerging Trends in Sexual Abuser Management*, and is co-developer of the *SOTIPS* and *VASOR-2* risk assessment instruments. He was co-chair of the professional standards committee that authored the ATSA 2014 Practice Guidelines for the Assessment, Treatment, and Management of Male Adult Sexual Abusers. He currently serves or has served on the treatment advisory boards of several sex offender programs in the United States and the national sex offender treatment programs in Canada, the United Kingdom, and Hong Kong.

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McGrath, R. J., Allin, H. M., & Cumming, G. F. (2015). *Manual for the Risk of Sexual Abuse of Children (ROSAC): Structured professional guidelines for assessing the risk a sexual abuser poses to a child and making child contact decisions*. Brandon, VT: Safer Society Press.

Financial Interest Disclosure:

Presenter receives royalties for ROSAC manual