

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Thursday November 7 | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

T-40

Professional Exploitation: When the Therapist Becomes the Offender

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This workshop will address the special circumstances of professionals (clergy, therapists, teachers, doctors, coaches) that lead to the sexual exploitation of clients. Feelings of caring and love can form authentically and inauthentically during a professional relationship that can have an impact on both the client and the professional. This workshop will discuss the literature on the experience of love and intimacy in the professional relationship and will identify professional and client risk factors that can lead to the exploitation of the client. The participant will learn to reduce the risk factors of professional exploitation on micro, mezzo, and macro levels, and will discuss the special circumstances regarding treating the “professional” sex offender.

Learning Goals:

Participants in this workshop will be able to:

- Explain the current literature on the purpose and experience of love and intimacy in the professional relationship
- Identify the professional and client risk factors for professional sexual exploitation
- Explain how to reduce the micro, mezzo, and macro level risk factors of professional exploitation to prevent exploitation.

Dr. Michelle Evans is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Sex Offender Treatment Provider and Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor with experience in providing sex offender treatment to adults and adolescents at Nickerson and Associates, P.C. in Winfield, Illinois. She is the Assistant Dean for Health Professions and Public Service at Waubonsee Community College in Sugar Grove, Illinois, and an adjunct professor at Aurora University. She is the President-Elect of the Illinois Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ILATSA). Most recently, she wrote the chapter “Professional Exploitation” for the Encyclopedia of Rape and Violence.