

SHAPING THE FUTURE

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Crossover Domestic Violence/Sex Offender Cases: Does Current Policy, Prosecution, and Assessment Adequately Address the Crossover Risk and Implement Risk Need Responsivity (RNR)?

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The term “intimate partner violence” (IPV) describes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression by a current or former intimate partner. Intimate partner-sexual violence (IPSV) is a separate phenomenon that has become a serious, often un-addressed problem that affects millions of Americans. The prevalence of offenders who have both domestic violence and sex offense charges is seemingly on the rise, though mostly likely under-identified. In one study (Davies & Simon, 2009), 68% of the sex offenders in the study reported having a current or prior domestic violence conviction; 77% of sex offenders admitted to engaging in non-consensual sex with an intimate partner; 69% of sex offenders admitted to having sex with a partner while she was asleep/unconscious; and 32% of sex offenders stated they had sadistic rape fantasies.

Most professionals who work with domestic violence offenders argue that sexual contact can never be consensual when there is IPV in a relationship. Unfortunately, these crossover cases are often being conceptualized, assessed, and treated as separate issues, rather than linked issues requiring a distinctive lens that utilizes the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Principle.

Presenters will discuss how this translates into needed policy change and what can/is being done in this regard. Utilizing the risk assessments and evidenced-based data available, this presentation will offer a possible evaluation protocol that includes risk assessments, psychological assessments, and case conceptualization that caters to both populations and differentiates the risk for sex offending and domestic violence. Specifically, the presentation will offer data from evaluations of crossover offenders to evaluate whether they are presenting as more of a domestic violence or sex offense risk. The importance of utilizing the Violence Risk Scale-Sex Offense Version (VRS-SO) created by Mark Olver, Ph.D. with these cases will be discussed. Additionally, this presentation will educate professionals about the process of gathering the information necessary (e.g., collateral interviews, prior police reports, treatment records, prior evaluations, etc.) to appropriately assess these cases. A video interview of a cross-over client will be shown, followed by an interactive group exercise to determine risk factors and create recommendations for treatment and supervision.

Brenna Tindall, Psy.D., CAC III is a Licensed Psychologist and Certified Addiction Counselor III. She has extensive experience evaluating and treating adult and adolescent clients who are involved with the criminal justice system. She is a Full Operating Sex Offender Offender Management Board (SOMB)-approved Adult and Juvenile Evaluator and Therapist. She is also a Full Operating Evaluator for Offender's with Intellectual Disabilities. Dr. Tindall is a Certified Trainer for the SOTIPS and VASOR-2 adult sex offender risk assessments as well as a Certified Trainer of the J-SOAP-II for juvenile sex offenders. She is also a Certified Child Contact Screen (CCS) Evaluator. Dr. Tindall is a full operating evaluator for the Colorado Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB). She was recently appointed by the Attorney General in Colorado to a four year position on the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board.

Dr. Tindall specializes in forensic evaluations of individuals in the criminal justice system to include psychological evaluations, insanity evaluations, mental state at the time of the offense (MSO), voluntary false confessions, competency evaluations, sex offense specific evaluations, domestic violence evaluations, dual diagnosis evaluations, substance abuse evaluations, cognitive evaluations, and Child Contact Screens.

Of particular importance to Dr. Tindall is the application of the Risk Need Responsivity Principle as it applies to the assessment and identification of needs of offenders. Dr. Tindall has presented at conferences and trainings for the past nine years on topics including adults sex offender risk assessments; juvenile sex offender risk assessment instruments; cumulative career traumatic stress/vicarious trauma; the "ins-and-outs of psychosexual evaluations;" juvenile and adult SOMB Standards; and psychological evaluations as possible mitigation in criminal cases.

Dr. Tindall presented at the ATSA conference in 2017 and 2018; at the 2018 and 2019 MASOC conference in Massachusetts; the 2018 ATSA/Alliance Conference in New York in 2018; and presents annually at the Colorado SOMB conference.