

JUVENILE SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

The juvenile sex offender program provides evaluation/risk assessment and psychotherapy treatment for children between the ages of 13 and 18 who have engaged in sexual misconduct. Due to the nature of the treatment necessary for juvenile sex offenders, a very close working relationship is established with the referral agencies which typically include offices of county juvenile probation, parole and child protective service agencies. During the assessment/evaluation phase of intervention, many tools are used in determining the type of juvenile sex offender in conjunction with a risk assessment to evaluate the likelihood for reoffending behavior. The "PHASE typology" of adolescent sex offenders is the format used to create a profile for sex offense treatment. The juvenile sex offender "decision criteria" is used in order to establish a low, moderate, or high risk for recidivist behavior.

After gaining the typology and risk assessment, a decision is made as to the most appropriate form of intervention for the client. If the client is not recommended to seek treatment in a residential facility, he can be referred to outpatient treatment. Several forms of intervention that are offered at T.W. Ponessa & Associates are group therapy, individual therapy and, if necessary, wrap-around services. All of these treatment provisions include the following as a focus of ongoing therapy:

- Disclosure and explanation of offense
- Victim empathy
- Grooming, pre-offense patterns and maintenance cycles
- Impulse control
- Offense prevention planning
- Processing victimization history
- Sexual offender accountability

DRUG & ALCOHOL

Since 1993, T.W. Ponessa & Associates has provided assessment, intervention, referral and outpatient treatment of individuals and families who are suffering from psychoactive substance abuse or dependence and other additions. Evaluations are provided for those with legal difficulties due to drug and/or alcohol including D.U.I. evaluations. Other services include Act 122 D.U.I. groups, student assistance programs in several Lancaster county schools, adolescent drug and alcohol evaluations for community based programs such as the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Lancaster and individualized counseling for clients aged 13 through adult. Additional focus of treatment includes issues of codependency and adult children of alcoholics.

T.W. Ponessa & Associates is licensed by the Department of Health Division of Drug and Alcohol Program licensing. In addition, T.W. Ponessa & Associates maintains a contract with the Lancaster County Drug and Alcohol Program for the provision of services to Lancaster county residents.

OUTPATIENT COUNSELING

Child - Adolescent Counseling:

Children seen at T.W. Ponessa & Associates are between the ages of 3 and 19. The treatment concerns addressed have included the following:

- Behavioral Problems - running away, defiance, lying, stealing, bedwetting, truancy, fighting, etc.
- Emotional Problems - depression, anxiety, withdrawal, low self-esteem, anger, guilt, etc.
- Educational Problems - poor study habits, poor grades, truancy, etc.
- Sexuality Issues - effects of sexual abuse, sexual acting out behavior, sexual perpetration on other children.
- Parent-Child Problems - divorce issues, stepfamily problems, single parent problems, etc.

Parents are a vital part in the treatment of their child. Therefore, they are expected to be a part of the counseling process.

Adult Counseling:

Treatment concerns addressed have included the following:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse
- Adult survivors of sexual assault
- Human sexuality
- Couples Counseling
- Parent-child problems

WRAPAROUND SERVICES

The office of T.W. Ponessa & Associates also provides wraparound services based on the principles of the Pennsylvania Child and Adolescent Service Systems Program (CASSP).

Wraparound is an intensive, individualized, all-inclusive service utilizing all resources available to the child and family. More specifically, these services can be provided to support and maintain the child in the home, community, and educational system. The wraparound process includes mobile therapy, behavioral specialist consultation and therapeutic staff support.

Wraparound is designed for children, adolescents, and families who are:

- experiencing severe symptoms or distress
- readjusting to home, school and community following hospitalization
- requiring more support than traditional outpatient therapy

Wraparound offers individual and family therapy for a variety of mental health issues such as:

- Mood disorders
- Post-traumatic stress disorders
- Oppositional defiant disorders
- Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorders
- Paraphilia
- Personality disorders
- Adjustment disorders

SPECIALIZATION:

In coordination with the adult and juvenile sexual offender programs, the staff at T. W. Ponessa & Associates specializes in the treatment of sexual disorders and has significant experience working with perpetrators of sexual abuse and with the survivors of this abuse.

TO MAKE A REFERRAL:

Contact the program director at (717) 560-7917 and complete the referral form provided to your agency.



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