

VICTIM CENTERED

A Coordinated Response When
Adolescents Engage in Sexually
Abusive Behaviors

For SOBP
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1. Few specialized treatment providers (with expertise in working with adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviors).
2. Culturally/Linguistically Competent Providers
3. Insufficient Insurance/Mean of payment
4. Limited Access to SAY program
5. Provider Reimbursement Rate (on contracts)
6. Legal Issues
7. Lack of Family Engagement





**NO
MORE
VICTIMS**

WHAT VICTIMS WANT

- **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND VALIDATION**
- **ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONSEQUENCE**
- **SAFETY FOR SELF AND OTHERS**



VICTIM IMPACT



THE "ACT" DOES NOT
NECESSARILY DETERMINE THE
SUBSEQUENT EMOTIONAL
REACTION EXPERIENCED BY THE
VICTIM

ADOLESCENTS WHO ENGAGE IN SEXUALLY ABUSIVE BEHAVIORS

- Majority of adolescents DO NOT engage in sexually abusive behaviors and their brains are still developing TOO
- Who you see in your practice, who you represent as your client is NOT the norm amongst adolescents. They are a very small subset of the population. These behaviors are not normal. These behaviors are not developmentally appropriate. These behaviors should concern us all and set an alarm that the adolescent needs specialized intervention
- Perhaps they did NOT know the laws but they knew it was wrong which leads them to hide, be dishonest about it or tell a victim not to tell. They keep it a secret to those they know, love and trust

SPECIALIZED EVALUATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Are developmentally sensitive, conducted by specialized providers, and identify need, risk and responsivity factors.

Include collateral contacts across multiple domains (home, school, community) to capture full picture of adolescent's functioning.

Cover multiple areas: developmental history, problematic/abusive sexual behaviors, family, home environment, social and community, etc.

Use standardized measures.

Recommend individually tailored treatment interventions, including modality, frequency, duration, etc., along with treatment goals.

Assessment is ongoing throughout treatment.

EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT

Treatment must be:

- informed by the assessment and focused on identified treatment targets
- guided by the research
- flexible and tailored to unique adolescent and family system need
- culturally responsive and inclusive of family and other natural supports
- collaborative with other involved professionals to further treatment goals

Components of treatment include:

- psychoeducation (boundaries/consent),
- emotion/behavioral regulation and coping skills,
- examining and restructuring faulty thinking,
- healthy sexuality,
- social competency skills,
- victim awareness,
- risk/relapse prevention,
- family communication

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT



CLARIFICATION AND REUNIFICATION



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adolescents who engage in sexually abusive behaviors cause serious harm that can have lasting mental health impacts for a victim. Their age at offense or relationship to the victim does not mitigate the impact on a victim.
- Victims, adolescents who sexually abuse and families are often intertwined; our response needs to be intertwined too. A coordinated, MDT system response is needed where families can immediately access a centralized resource for guidance. This resource should be guided by clinical wisdom.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTINUED

- Swift early identification, response and intervention with families impacted by sexual abuse is paramount. Families, including victims and adolescents who sexually abuse, should be encouraged to talk openly about what happened, get connected to resources and treatment. Our system response needs to interrupt the “secret-keeping” that enabled the abuse to occur and model openly addressing the issue so that rehabilitation can promptly begin.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTINUED

- A swift path to specialized evaluation and treatment for all parties must be prioritized and considered a resource for victims, families and the adolescents who sexually abused.
- The justice system re-defines “winning” for these youth. Winning is NOT avoiding accountability and consequences for sexually abusive and illegal behaviors or minimizing them; winning is accessing resources that provides for a pro-social path forward.
- Legal sanctions must be imposed when warranted.
- Primary prevention programs continue to be prioritized across the state.