



COURT SERVICES & OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY *for the* DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Community Supervision Services

FACT SHEET SEX OFFENDER UNIT-2011

OVERVIEW

The Sex Offender Unit (SOU) is one of CSOSA's special programs responsible for the supervision of sex offenders released to the community on probation, parole and supervised release. SOU's mission is predicated on the belief that all of our decisions and case planning must enhance community safety overall. SOU proactively manages this population by:

- assessing offender risk to community safety,
- identifying high risk behaviors, and
- strategically addressing risk through close supervision, treatment or incarceration.

SOU's mantra is "No new victims."

SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT

Sex offenders assigned to SOU must undergo an initial psycho-sexual risk assessment by one of our sex offender treatment providers. If treatment is deemed appropriate by the therapist, the offender is required to attend a minimum of weekly group treatment sessions and individual sessions as determined by the therapist. Sex offender treatment can last between 12-24 months or longer, followed by an indefinite period of aftercare. Sex offenders also are required to submit to a series of polygraph examinations that are designed to break an offender's denial of their crime(s), obtain a sexual history, and determine compliance with the treatment objectives. Therapists work collaboratively with the community supervision officers (CSOs) to ensure the offenders are meeting their treatment and supervision obligations. At the conclusion of treatment, all sex offenders are required to present in writing and orally their "Relapse Prevention Plan" to their CSO and CSO's supervisor. This presentation serves as a means of documenting the offender's risk avoidance strategies, while ensuring the offender has sufficiently learned how to be successful.

CLOSE SUPERVISION

Sex offenders initially are placed on Intensive or Maximum supervision, depending on their known criminal history, mental health status and past adjustments to community supervision until the Agency's AUTO Screener (assessment tool) can be administered. This means that CSOs are required to meet with the offender face-to-face no less than once or twice per week. CSOs are also required to regularly maintain contact with other people associated with the offender (i.e., family, counselors, employers, etc...). The supervision level is subject to change depending on an offender's adjustment and compliance with supervision requirements.

TOOLS THAT ENHANCE CLOSE SUPERVISION

- **GPS tracking**
- **Computer monitoring**
- **Polygraph testing**
- **Search and Seizure**

EXAMPLES OF OUR SUCCESS

SOU has several cases in which our efforts have removed dangerous offenders from the community before a crime was committed or where offenders have made positive progress. Here are some of those examples:

- * Last year, an offender on parole for a series of sexual assaults against female children was discovered viewing pornographic websites while at work. His employer notified his CSO, who later determined that the sites depicted youthful looking males. His parole conditions were promptly modified to prohibit him from viewing or possessing pornography, accessing the Internet, having contact with children, and working or volunteering in an environment where children are present. CSOSA also obtained the authority to conduct unannounced searches of the offender's residence and computer. A subsequent search was conducted of his residence and computer, which revealed notebooks filled with internet screen names, phone numbers and websites. A closer examination of the material seized showed ages next to most of the screen names and phone numbers, many of which were under the age of 18, some as young as 14. Also discovered were a phone number and contact person for the Red Cross. Follow up with the Red Cross revealed that the offender had contacted them and inquired about volunteering with one of their programs that worked with youth. With this information, the offender's parole was revoked.
- * A parolee was mandatorily released from prison earlier this year. Case records revealed that the offender had been diagnosed as being a pedophile with a preference for underage boys. In fact, for several years the offender had been hospitalized at St. Elizabeths Hospital after the court found grounds to commit him as a sexual psychopath. The offender was prohibited from having contact with children and from using a computer. In addition, he was ordered into a half way house for up to 120 days and required to participate in sex offender treatment. This offender presented the highest risk to community safety and was therefore immediately placed on GPS tracking so that his movements could be monitored throughout the community. GPS records showed the offender traveling to the Martin Luther King Library. When confronted about his purpose there, the offender admitted that he was using the computer to access the Internet. GPS records also showed the offender taking a route from his CSO's office to the halfway house that was considered to be out of the way, consequently causing him to be late for check-in at the halfway house. Further investigation by the CSO of the GPS records showed that the offender had traveled to Anacostia Metro station at a time when children get out from a nearby school. When confronted, the offender had no plausible explanation for being in that area and missing his curfew with the halfway house. Based on this evidence, the CSO sought a warrant for his arrest and his parole was subsequently revoked.
- * An offender on probation for sexually abusing a minor had been in abscondance for several years. After police apprehended the offender, the court immediately

reinstated his probation. A review of the case file revealed that he had a prior conviction for a similar offense in Ohio. The offender was prohibited from having contact with children. Shortly after his reinstatement on probation, his assigned CSO conducted a routine home verification. When the CSO arrived at the residence, he was greeted by an 8-year-old female child who was determined to be of no relation to the offender. The offender was not home at the time of the visit, and the child's mother was no where to be found. The CSO immediately pulled the child out of the home and contacted MPDC to investigate. The offender was located by the CSO and instructed to report to the supervision office immediately. Investigators interviewed the child and determined that the offender had sexually assaulted her and others in the neighborhood. The offender confessed to the crime of molesting the 8-year-old that evening and was subsequently sentenced to a lengthy prison sentence.

- * A parolee reported for a scheduled visit with his CSO. During the meeting, the CSO caught the offender making an inconsistent statement about his tardiness to the appointment. The offender's therapist was contacted and advised that the offender, a pedophile, had been performing side work for neighbors in his community. The SOU had concerns about him having potential contact with minors and decided to submit the offender to a polygraph examination. During the pre-exam interview, the offender admitted that he had molested an eight year-old boy some months ago. When questioned by his CSO, the offender acknowledged that he sexually assaulted the boy in the laundry room of his apartment building and that the boy lived nearby. His CSO was able to get the offender to disclose the name and address of the boy, at which time police were contacted. As a result of this disclosure, the offender's parole was promptly revoked and a criminal investigation was initiated.

- * CSOSA was contacted by the US Park Police who were investigating an assault that occurred at Logan Circle in the District of Columbia the previous month. The investigating detective informed us that witnesses observed the suspect wearing an ankle bracelet and a device attached to his hip. Recognizing that the witnesses' description of the device matched those worn by offenders on GPS tracking, SOU staff proceeded to review all GPS records for the timeframe in which the crime was committed. After the analysis was completed, SOU staff was able to put one offender at the scene of the crime at precisely the timeframe identified by the detective. In fact, GPS showed that the offender had left the crime scene at a rate of speed, suggesting that he was running from the area. Our office forwarded a photo of the offender on GPS whose tracks put him at the crime scene. He was eventually identified from a photo spread by one of the witnesses. An arrest warrant was prepared, and he was arrested by the US Park Police at the parole office. The offender, when confronted with the GPS evidence, confessed to the assault.