



Council on Sex Offender Treatment

Castration

Castration is not a “cure” for sex offending behavior or solving the problem of sexual violence. However, it may be useful in reducing deviant sexual arousal and fantasies in “some” sex offenders.

TEXAS LAW- The 75th Texas Legislature enacted a law regarding the voluntary surgical castration (biological intervention) of incarcerated sex offenders. An incarcerated sex offender may volunteer for this procedure under the following conditions:

1. The offender is a repeat child molester;
2. 21 years of age or older;
3. Informed consent has been received from the offender;
4. Psychiatric/psychological evaluations determine castration is a option;
5. Participate in a ten year follow up study and;
6. Is appointed an “independent monitor” to insure understanding of the process.

There are two types of castration

1. Chemical/Biological-testosterone lowering drugs (i.e. antiandrogens)
Antiandrogens have shown success in the curbing deviant sexual appetites in resistant individuals but the medications is not without side effects
2. Physical/Surgical-removal of the testes, is irreversible, and appear to have fewer side effects

Recipients of any form of castration must be monitored to prevent use of illegal hormone replacement.

Any form of biological intervention should:

1. be preceded by psychiatric, psychological, and medical evaluation to determine the appropriateness of this form of treatment
2. should always be in conjunction with sex offender treatment.
3. be monitored long term to determine the efficacy of the treatment

Surgical castration should always be voluntary and a treatment of last resort. No form of castration should be used with juveniles. Castration should never be used in lieu of treatment