

The Council on Sex Offender Treatment

Recommended Guidelines

for the

Inter-program Transfer of Sex Offenders

These "Recommended Guidelines for the Inter-program Transfer of Sex Offenders" were developed by Registered Sex Offender Treatment Providers in Texas through an interactive review and comment process in 1996/97. The Council on Sex Offender Treatment endorses their use in order to maintain a balance of offender accountability and confidentiality with public safety. Comments/suggestions for improvement may be made to the Council at 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3183.

When transfer is requested or required, it is recommended the transfer be made only to the program of another registered sex offender treatment provider. The term "offender" used in these guidelines may refer to an individual offender, in the case of adults, or to an individual offender and his or her parent, guardian, or custodian in the case of juveniles who have been ordered to have family involvement in sex offender treatment. The term "monitoring agent" refers to the representative of the agency charged with the responsibility of supervising the offender in the community; this may be a probation officer, parole officer, juvenile probation, CPS caseworker, or any other supervising professional. An offender may transfer to another registered sex offender treatment provider at any point when s/he is current in all payments to both the primary and/or group therapist (s) and all of the following conditions are met:

- 1. The offender should discuss the transfer and the reasoning for transfer with the primary therapist and in the group with the group members and the group therapist.**

This standard in the transfer process holds the offender responsible for clarification of his or her reasons for requesting such transfer of treatment. Group discussion should provide feedback to the offender and allows for processing of issues of avoidance or manipulation of the therapy process.

- 2. The primary therapist should notify the monitoring agent about the offender's request to transfer.**

This standard keeps the monitoring agent informed of the offender's request for transfer between treatment programs. This standard may

end the transfer process if the monitoring agency chooses to deny the offender the opportunity to exit the current treatment program.

3. When the reasons for transfer have been clearly established, the primary therapist should contact the new registered sex offender treatment provider to whom the client wishes to transfer. The primary therapist should inform the receiving therapist to expect contact from this offender.

This standard provides for collateral contact between therapists which minimizes the offender's manipulation of the transfer process. Information shared between therapists reduces the likelihood that misinformation will be provided by the offender. This standard provides the establishment of time frames within which the offender is expected to facilitate contacts between therapists.

4. The offender should contact the therapist s/he wants to transfer to, and report back to the current primary therapist as to the time and date of the initial appointment with the new therapist.

This standard verifies for the primary therapist that the offender is actively seeking a transfer as opposed to feigning a desire to transfer, and thus providing a distraction from the clinical issues being addressed.

5. At the time of the initial appointment with the perspective new therapist, the offender should request the primary therapist be contacted, confirming that the appointment was kept and if the offender will be accepted for transfer. If the prospective therapist does not accept the offender for transfer or needs additional time to make a clinically sound decision regarding the transfer the offender should continue with the primary therapist and the treatment program until the transfer process is completed.

This standard prohibits offenders from delaying appointments and from miss-communicating each therapist's intent. Additionally, it prohibits offenders from sabotaging the initial appointment and avoiding treatment while seeking a new therapist.

6. The offender should request that his/her primary therapist be present for a face to face transfer conference with the receiving therapist. When a face to face conference to not feasible, a telephone conference may be substituted with the agreement of both therapists. The cost of this session shall be borne by the offender. The fees shall be the ordinary and customary fees of each therapist.

This standard provides therapeutic closure with the primary therapist and appropriate and immediate clinical transfer. This standard provides the offender with the opportunity to hear a clinical review of

his/her progress and issues that both therapists perceive as clinical issues. Additionally, this standard holds the offender accountable for the therapists' investment of time in the transfer process.

- 7. When the new therapist accepts the offender for treatment, the offender should participate in at least one termination session with the present primary therapist and/or the treatment group. The offender should continue with the current primary therapist and the treatment program until acceptance into the new program has been confirmed.**

This standard insures both constant and consistent treatment for the offender. The offender should have no lapse in treatment. The offender shall also be provided with the opportunity to make appropriate closure in relationships that have been formed with the primary therapist and/or all members of the treatment group. This opportunity for closure is a phenomenon that may have seldom been experienced by the offender in relationships with his family of origin, his nuclear family, or his extra-familial relationships.

- 8. When the offender is accepted into treatment by a new registered treatment provider, the original primary therapist should release information regarding the offender's progress, upon obtaining written request and release from the offender and/or monitoring agency.**

This standard insures that all pertinent information regarding the offender will follow him/her to the receiving therapist, thereby guarding against manipulation of the receiving program personnel. The appropriate transmittal of a written request guards the confidentiality of the offender.

- 9. Upon completion of the transfer process, a summary report, including confirmation of the transfer of the offender, will be sent to the monitoring agent by the original primary therapist.**

The standard provides for the documentation of the transfer of the offender from one therapist to another, acknowledging the collaborative effort of the offender, therapists, criminal justice personnel, and legal system personnel, thus assuring appropriate of the offender and protection of the society.