

## *Documenting Supervision Activities*

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Case files should provide documentation of all case management and supervision activities that occur throughout the period of supervision, including the date and nature of all contacts, the officers' assessments of offenders at each contact, and any identified concerns or risk factors. Also included in case files should be regular updates and summaries of treatment participation and progress, registration verification, polygraph examination disclosures and results, all contacts with collaterals or members of community support networks, and victim impact statements. Furthermore, when violations occur, such behaviors – as well as the responses or sanctions, whether formal or informal – should be documented. Overall, the case file serves as a permanent record of offenders' behavior throughout the course of supervision. This information proves critical in the event that a case is transferred to another officer or agency, when legal actions arise, when determining the appropriateness of adjusting supervision requirements, or when violation behaviors or new criminal/delinquent activity requires a response.

## ► *Summary*

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The successful supervision of adult and juvenile sex offenders in the community is contingent on an understanding of the diversity of this offender population, and the selective application of supervision strategies based on the risk level, needs, and circumstances of each case. Furthermore, public safety is enhanced when more dangerous offenders receive higher intensity supervision and lower risk individuals are provided less stringent supervision interventions. In addition, officers and case managers must balance monitoring activities with a focus on rehabilitation and promoting the success of sex offenders. When they go on to live crime-free, pro-social lives, community safety is served.

In jurisdictions across the country, practitioners recognize the importance of multi-disciplinary collaboration to enhance and support community supervision efforts. Indeed, officers and case managers must work closely with treatment providers, victim advocates, members of community support networks, and others to hold sex offenders accountable and to ensure that they are receiving services that increase community stability and decrease the likelihood of recidivism. With juvenile sex offenders, officers and case managers must pay particular attention to the unique developmental needs of these youth and make every effort to include parents and family members in the community management process.