

Characteristics of an Effective Sex Offender Treatment Provider

- ◆ Able to set limits with clients
- ◆ Comfortable confronting clients and holding them accountable for their behavior
- ◆ Comfortable discussing sex
- ◆ Comfortable with their own sexuality
- ◆ Good relationships with men and women
- ◆ Good self-esteem
- ◆ Comfortable working with sex offenders and their offense behavior
- ◆ Comfortable challenging distorted views of men and women
- ◆ Willing to work without developing a trusting relationship with the client
- ◆ Knowledgeable about child abuse reporting laws
- ◆ Aware that he or she can be duped
- ◆ Ability to remain assertive while being confronted with client's hostility
- ◆ Ability to avoid talking about personal information with clients
- ◆ Does not need acceptance from clients
- ◆ Not intimidated by law suits
- ◆ Able to separate out own problems from client's need to change in those areas
- ◆ Comfortable with involuntary clients
- ◆ Willing to work with limited confidentiality
- ◆ Willing to monitor client's behavior outside treatment
- ◆ Knowledgeable of criminal justice system and victims
- ◆ Able to cope with stress
- ◆ Able to attend to details
- ◆ Able to maintain objectivity
- ◆ Possess the ethics and integrity to work in a court system:
 - ◆ Knowledge/adherence to Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) Standards
 - ◆ Knowledge/adherence to ethics of discipline
 - ◆ Open, honest relationship with treatment team

Adapted from the work of Georgia Cumming, Vermont Department of Corrections