

## **SECTION 5: SUPERVISION OF SEX OFFENDERS IN THE COMMUNITY: PRACTICAL SUPERVISION STRATEGIES**

### ***Exercise 1: Desensitization and Maintaining Control of Interactions with Offenders***

Participants may divide into smaller groups or they may remain in a large group for this discussion depending on the size of the group, meeting space available, and length of time allotted to the discussion.

The purpose of this exercise is to allow participants to analyze the specific challenges presented by sex offenders under supervision and to apply some of the suggested strategies to their work.

#### **DESENSITIZATION**

1. What are some of the aspects of the work that you have had to “desensitize” yourselves to in order to be effective (e.g., nature of the offense behavior, impact on victims, apparent lack of any moral compass, etc.)
2. What techniques do you do in order to desensitize yourself? How effective are they?

#### **MAINTAINING CONTROL**

1. In the training, we have listed seven specific tools to assist in maintaining control of your interactions with sex offenders. Take a few moments to consider the tools. Beside each of the suggested tools or strategies, jot a few notes about an occasion when you did use—or might have used—these strategies. Consider how well they worked and what you might have done differently.
2. If you are relatively new to the work of sex offender supervision, or have never supervised sex offenders, note any questions you have beside each strategy. You might create a series of “what if....” situations to discuss.
3. After you have completed your notes, please discuss with your fellow participants. Others’ experience in these areas may be helpful in refining your own strategies for supervision.

## ***Maintaining Control of Interactions***

Strategy	How have you done this? or Future Scenario	How well did it (will it) work?
Establishing competence and knowledge		
Establishing purpose of the visit		
Use a neutral tone of voice and demeanor		
Establish and hold the offender accountable for standards of dress and/or behavior		
Establish the fact that you are in close communication with the treatment provider and others		
Set and maintain boundaries		
Remember you can be deceived		