

## SECTION 3: ELEMENTS OF SEX OFFENDER-SPECIFIC TREATMENT

### Learning Activity 3-2: Victimization Awareness/Empathy Training

In this exercise, we are considering the case of a 14-year-old who has been sexually abused by her step-father over a 12 month period. The victim indicates that her stepfather had sexual contact with her, including penetration, convincing her that if she revealed their secret “love,” it would endanger his marriage and their home. Please jot down a list of several distortions that the offender may be advancing, along with your notes about how that distortion should be corrected, and the benefits for the victim. Also note how enhancing this awareness might contribute to more responsible behavior on the part of the offender. We will then discuss your responses. An example is provided on the chart.

<b>Distortion</b>	<b>Correction</b>	<b>Benefits to Victim of Correcting the Distortion</b>
The “victim” was a willing participant.	The offender used the threat that the victim would lose her family, wreck her mother’s marriage, and be blamed by her mother to create duress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The victim could be relieved of the burden of thinking that she was somehow responsible for this abusive behavior.</li> <li>• This also forces the offender to take responsibility for his actions and to begin to understand the burdens he has placed on the victim by his actions.</li> </ul>