

**Sex Offender Cycle**  
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and Victim Assistance  
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**Sex Offender Cycle**

- Stage 1: Biological Formative
- Genetic predisposition to aggression
- Brain Functions
- Brain Injuries
- Hormones

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**Sex Offender Cycle**

- Stage 2: Psychological and Emotional Development
- Conditioning
- Conscience Formation
- Social Interests
- Courtship Process

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### Sex Offender Cycle

- Stage 2: Psychological and Emotional Development (cont)
- Abuse, Neglect, Brutalization
- Attachment Disorders
- Lack of Self-Esteem
- Inadequate Personality

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### Psychological Development

- Foundation for cognitive development and cognitive distortions
  - Self concept
  - Need for autonomy
  - Relatedness to others
  - Competence and adequacy (sexual)
  - Attachment issues

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### Psychological Development

- Later offenses are based on offender's theory regarding the nature of their victims, the nature of the world, and their own self concept
- A life script is developed based on the aforementioned

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### Sex Offender Cycle

- Stage 3: Isolation
- Can Be Physical or Mental
- Closely Associated With Next Phase

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### Sex Offender Cycle

- Stage 4: Fantasy -- General
- May Develop at Young Age
- Preoccupied With Sexual Energy
- Masturbation to Relieve Anger/Anxiety
- Deviant Fantasies May Develop
- If Abused, Fantasies Related to Abuse

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### Fantasy General

- When individuals think about possible outcomes in a concrete and systematic manner, they are much more likely to perform such actions in the future.
- Thinking about behavior to reach a goal enhances a person's motivation to behave in a certain way.
- Sexual deviant fantasies increase chances that an offender will offend.

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### General Fantasy

- Types of fantasies that are goal-directed
- Offense scripts
- Mental simulations

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### General Fantasy

- A person may script out a version of sex with a child, then act it out when environmental cues (precipitating event) are favorable
- Plans may unfold automatically without much conscious awareness
- Without realizing it, may place self in a high risk situation (covert planning)

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### Sex Offender Cycle

- Stage 5: Precipitating Event
- A Culmination of Chronic Stress
- Could be a Specific Incident
  - Loss of Wife or Loved One
  - Loss of Job
  - Daily hassle like an argument
  - Excessive fantasies

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**Precipitating Event**

- First appraisal of event is automatic
- Could be cumulative chronic stress
- Could be triggered by person's associations to the event and may well be outside the person's conscious awareness
- Relevant cues that activate the offense script occur --- cues can be internal or external

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**Precipitating Event**

- Internal cues - negative mood
- External cues --- old haunts, pornography, previous associates,

Sexual arousal and other physiological changes may occur accompanied by powerful affective states

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**Precipitating Event**

- Accidental or constant contact with potential victim may be the precipitating event that causes the specific fantasy and can therefore bypass the hunt
- Pornography and alcohol may be facilitators and disinhibitors

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### Precipitating Event

- If an "impulsive act," may encounter someone, stimulates specific patterns of thoughts, emotions, feelings, and intentions. Go right into the next phase

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### Sex Offender Cycle

- Stage 6: Fantasy -- Specific
- General Fantasies Become More Defined
- Particular Type of Victims May Be Envisioned
- Anxiety Levels Increase
- Planning Directly Related to Intensity of Fantasy

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### Specific Fantasy

- Refine the offense script based on the person you either see in reality or in the offender's mind
- Increases the possibility of abusive behaviors
- Goals may be covertly rehearsed with accompanying states (happiness, sexual arousal, curiosity, anger, anxiety)

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**Sex Offender Cycle**

- Stage 7: The Hunt
- Anxiety Levels Increase
- Look for Victim That Fits Fantasy
- Victim May Cross Offender's Path When Not Looking, Especially With Little Fantasy
- Victims May Live or Work With Offender

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**Sex Offender Cycle**

- Stage 8: Contact
- Con
- Blitz
- Surprise

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**Sex Offender Cycle**

- Stage 9: Dominance, Manipulation, Control
- Choose People Who Are Available, Vulnerable, and Less Powerful Than Offender

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**Sex Offender Cycle**

- Stage 10: Capture
- Victim Cannot Leave
- Hunt, Contact, Control and Capture May Occur Very Fast or Take Years
- Anxiety Levels Increase In Anticipation

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**Sex Offender Cycle**

- Stage 11: Physical and/or sexual Assault
- Any Sexual Act Performed on Victim
- Watch for Collateral Sexual Deviations

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**Sex Offender Cycle**

- Stage 12: Trophy or Souvenir
- Trophy -- Conquest
- Souvenir -- Fond Memories
- Could Be Parts of Body
- Photographs; Clothes; Jewelry
- Memories (Mental)

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**Sex Offender Cycle**

- Stage 13: Post Assault
- Post assault acts
- Threats, gifts
- If murder, method of body disposal
  - Dumped
  - Concealed
  - Displayed

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**Sex Offender Cycle**

- Stage 14: Post Event
- After Has Left Crime Scene
- Changes in Mood, Activities
- May Be No Change
- Treats Others the Same or Differently
- Trophies and Souvenirs
- Post Traumatic Stress

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**Sex Offender Cycle**

- Stage 15: Reconciliation
- How to Deal With Power or Guilt
  - Kill or Offend Again--Maybe Escalate
  - Decide to Quit Offending or De-escalate
  - May Return to Previous Stages and Begin Cycle From There

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