

## Selection, Engagement and Seduction of Children and Adults by Child Molesters

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## Workshop Topics for Today and Tomorrow

### Creepy but Crucial Information About Grooming

- Sex offender MO, SES, or "grooming" tactics
- False allegations and medical evidence of abuse
- "Protecting Your Children: Advice From Child Molesters"**

### Sex Offenders: What Judges, et al. Should Know:

- The "math" of child sexual abuse.
- How sex offenders become sex offenders.
- Reporting and detection rates (polygraph vs. non)
- "Cross over" or "crime switching behavior."
- "Recidivism" vs. re-offense rates

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## Selection, Engagement and Seduction of Children and Adult by Child Molesters, (Jewell Jensen, Jensen & Bailey, 2002)

- Why does grooming work?
  - Most adult don't know what to look for.
  - Most adults don't want to see it or believe it.
- How does grooming work?
  - By targeting specific children, families and communities to exploit.
  - Seducing the child/ren and adults.
  - Preparing for disclosure/confrontation
  - Learning from experience.

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## PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN: "Advice From Child Molesters"

- 1989 Sex Offender Group
- Westridge Elementary School and LO PD
- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- Oregon State & USA

"No one wants to have to tell their children about sexual abuse. On the other hand, do you want them to learn about it from a child molester instead?"



## Research on Grooming 80's to now

- How Sex Offenders "Lure" Children* (Lang & Frenzel, 1988)
- What Sex Offenders Tell Us About Prevention Strategies* (Conte, Wolf & Smith, 1989)
- Modus Operandi: Accuracy in self-reported use of threats and coercion.* (Kaufman et al. 1993)
- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: What Offenders Tell Us.* (Elliot & Brown, et al., 1995)
- Child Sexual Abuse: Offender Characteristics and Modus Operandi* (Smallbone & Wortley, 2001)
- A comparative study of demographic data related to intra- and extra-familial child sexual abusers and professional perpetrators.* (Sullivan & Beech, 2004)
- Modus Operandi of Sexual Offenders Working or Doing Volunteer Work with Children and Adolescents* (Leclerc, et al. 2005)
- Examining the modus operandi of sexual offenders against children and it's practical implication* (Leclerc, et al. 2009)

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## Legal Definitions

"Grooming is the process of cultivating trust with a victim and gradually introducing sexual behaviors until reaching the point where it is possible to perpetrate a sexual crime against the victim."  
(Piercefield v. State, 2007)

"...the process of eroding a victim's boundaries to physical touch and desensitizing them to sexual issues." (State v. Berosik, 2009)

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**Grooming Dynamics**  
(Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 2016)

- ♦ Identifying and targeting victim
- ♦ Gaining trust and access
- ♦ Playing a role in the child's life
- ♦ Isolating the child
- ♦ Creating secrecy around the relationship
- ♦ Initiating sexual contact
- ♦ Controlling the relationship

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**Sexual Grooming of Children: Review of literature and theoretical considerations**  
(Craven, Brown and Gilcrist, 2006)

- ♦ Self-grooming
- ♦ Grooming the environment
- ♦ Grooming significant others and potential onlookers or people who might intervene
- ♦ Grooming the child

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**Motivational VS Operational Goals and Behaviors**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Pre-Offending Behavior<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Public/family image</li><li>■ Engagement with child and family</li><li>■ Control and ongoing access</li></ul></li><li>♦ Offending Behavior<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Gradual desensitization and sexualization</li></ul></li><li>♦ Post Offending Behavior<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Denial, alignment, escape</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Place self in situation or relationship to have sexual contact with child/ren.</li><li>♦ Avoid disclosure, detection and reporting.</li><li>♦ Enhance sexual/intimate experience with victim.</li><li>♦ Enhance the "thrill of getting away with it."</li><li>♦ Be able to pursue new victims</li></ul>
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**FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit Offender Typology - Grooming**

- ♦ Identity potential target
  - Availability – Vulnerability – Desirability
- ♦ Gather information about needs and - vulnerabilities
  - Via communication or interaction/observation with others
- ♦ Establish a connection
  - Access via relationship, activity, and/or organization (alienate or ingratiate caretakers)

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**FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit Offender Typology - Grooming**

- ♦ Fill needs and vulnerabilities
  - Core grooming behaviors, influenced by offender's skill and child's reaction
- ♦ Lower inhibitions (the "pay off")
  - Introduce sexualized talk, touch, play, nudity, porn, etc.
- ♦ Preserve the process
  - Prevent disclosure, repeat victimization, encourage victim complacency/collaboration

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**FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit Offender Typology - Grooming**

- ♦ Constellation of behaviors
- ♦ Offender supplies both emotional and tangible things, may try to fill "void" in victim's life/situation.
  - Attention, recognition, affection, kindness, romance, intimidation
  - Gifts, staples, drugs/alcohol, privileges, relax rules, allowing the forbidden, breaking down roles/boundaries that usually exist between children/adults, student/teacher, coach/player

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### FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit Offender Typology - Grooming

- ♦ Grooming is tailored to specific victims and families/agencies (via church – offender may portray self as extremely religious)
- ♦ Adolescent males
  - The 3 D's - driving, drinking, dirty pictures
- ♦ Boys and girls
  - Attention, affection, assets

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### *The Pedophile's Guide to Love and Pleasure: A Child-lover's Code of Conduct 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Phillip Greaves, 2010)

- ♦ "Pedophiles must care for and befriend their young lovers. They are concerned for the wellbeing and pleasure of their little friends, always putting the juvenile's pleasure and happiness first."
- ♦ "When Pedophiles interact with children, they do so through their own inner child and enter into an equality of personhood with their young friend."
- ♦ Some children are innately attracted to pedo/juviphilies.
- ♦ Recommend teen magazines for "handsome, fresh faces" and latex finger coits for little penises.

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### Targeting Communities and Institutions

- ♦ Picking a community or institution
  - Setting provides access to children.
  - Offender is "unknown" or "unsuspected."
  - Atmosphere of "tolerance and acceptance."
  - Community appears "gullible, naïve and non-confrontive."
  - Has fluid or "loose" boundaries.

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### Grooming Tactics

- ♦ Authority/trust position (teacher/elder/parent/married/middle aged).
- ♦ Presented self as Christian with "good moral character."
- ♦ Became "best of friends" with parents/family.
- ♦ "Took his time" (3 to 6 months, maybe a year.).
- ♦ Showing gratuitous trust in others.
- ♦ "Catalogued boys for future offending."
- ♦ Did it "right under people's nose."
- ♦ Bribery - "big buddy with keys and a checkbook."
- ♦ Spent time doing fun things that the boys "liked to do."
- ♦ Acted "like an 11 to 13 year old."
- ♦ Talked about sex and got kids to share.
- ♦ Used own children as bait.

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### *Offender Relationship to Victim* Huot, 1999

- |   |  |     |
|---|--|-----|
| ♦ 1652 sex offenders                      | ♦ Biological parent                            | 16% |
| ♦ 95% were child molesters.               | ♦ Stepparent                                   | 14% |
|   | ♦ Other relative                               | 16% |
|   | (Grand, uncle, sib)                            |     |
| ♦ Majority of victims under 12 years old. | ♦ Friend of parent                             | 26% |
|   | ♦ Person in authority (clergy, teacher, coach) | 22% |
|   | ♦ Stranger                                     | 05% |
|   | ♦ Other  | 01% |

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### Family Offenders: More or Less Dangerous?

- ♦ Chronic deception with intimate partner.
- ♦ Unique degree of access and control.
- ♦ Unique ability to undermine child's relationships, activities, and isolation.
- ♦ Unique ability to twist other people's perception of child's credibility.
- ♦ Unique ability to create greater fear of disclosure.
- ♦ Unique ability to control child's response to disclosure or detection.

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### **Exploring Sex Offender Grooming Tanner and Brake, 2013**

- ♦ Overcoming resistance
  - Normalizing the assault
  - Stepwise progression and desensitization
- ♦ Maintaining access
  - Keeping victim available
  - Social /personal position
- ♦ Minimizing disclosure
  - Bonding
  - Push/pull (emotional support and isolation from others)
  - Induce fear and guilt

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### **Running spouse/parents down**

- ♦ Criticizing other parent in front of victim
- ♦ Becoming the favored/more trusted/more fun/hipper parent/friend.
- ♦ Creating an “us against them” mentality.

*“If someone is paying more attention to your child than you are, be concerned.”*

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### **Targeting Families**

- ♦ Family
  - Single, absent or “uninvolved” parents,
  - Gullibility, stress, poverty.
  - Lack of bonding, lack of supervision, lack of boundaries,
  - Lack of assertiveness
  - Prior victimization of parent/s.
  - Disabilities or other vulnerabilities.
  - Indiscriminate trust of others.
  - Parents who don’t seem to understand normal relationship boundaries.

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### **Victim Selection**

- ♦ Gender and tanner stage
- ♦ Physical attractiveness offender
- ♦ Innocent, trusting and naive
- ♦ Personality characteristics
- ♦ Relationship with caretakers/support system
- ♦ Protective Factors (self-esteem, assertiveness, awareness and instincts)
- ♦ Personal, physical boundaries
- ♦ Bargaining power

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### **Choosing “At Risk” Children**

- ♦ Less believable
- ♦ Lower level of supervision
- ♦ Needier for attention/affection
- ♦ May have been abused “broken in” before
- ♦ Less willing to risk telling on teacher, coach, minister, favorite parent/uncle.....
- ♦ More bargaining power.....

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### **Identifying Sexual Grooming Themes Used by Internet Offenders (Williams, Elliot and Beech, 2013)**

Children who are isolated and lack social support are more likely to engage with a person/stranger who offers acceptance.

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***Entrapping the Innocent: Toward A Theory of  
Child Sexual Predators  
(Olson, Daggs, Ellevold and Rogers, 2007)***

- ♦ Factors offenders describe as causing children to have less supervision and/or be more vulnerable to abuse
  - Single parent home
  - Parents with substance abuse problems
  - Emotion or mental health problems
  - Marital discord or domestic violence
  - Neglectful of children in general

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**Children With a History of Abuse**

- ♦ Children who have been molested are more likely (3-6X) to be re-abused by a new offender (Finkelhor, 2007).
- ♦ Healthy adults ignore or seek help for children with sexual behavior problems.
- ♦ Offenders may sexualize children they know, or suspect, have been abused.

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**Creating Access and  
Gaining Opportunity**

"Sometimes I offered to babysit while my girlfriend did the shopping and pushed the notion that she needed to take time for herself once in a while."

"I made sure I was the one who read them bedtime stories and tucked them in."

"I offered to take him on special outings."

"I drugged the mother so she got sleepy early."

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***Do Sex Offenders Molest When Other Persons  
Are Present? A Preliminary Investigation  
(Underwood, Patch, Cappelletty & Wolfe, 1999)***

- ♦ 131 adult SOs
- ♦ 55% of the child molesters reported molesting children when another child was present
- ♦ 24% molested when another adult was present (but unaware)
- ♦ 14% molested when another adult and another child were present
- ♦ 25% molested when another child was in the same bed
- ♦ 12% molested when another adult was in the bed
- ♦ 77% said offending with others present made it "more exciting" and gave them a sense of "mastery"
- ♦ 75% said they were being "too compulsive to inhibit desires"
- ♦ 39% said they were "stupid."

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***How Victim Age Affects the Context and Timing of Child  
Sexual Abuse (Brown, Wortley and Smallbone, 2015)***

- Age of victims
  - 11% of victims under 5.
  - 42% age 6-11
  - 47% 12 and older
- Abuse of younger children
  - Occurred during "normal" activities in the home
  - Perpetrator was a relative or live in
  - 2/3 of incidents occurred while another person was nearby, in the same house or present in the same room.
- ♦ Most abuse of teens occurred during later hours (9 PM and 6 AM), outside the home and perpetrators was more often unrelated.
- ♦ 53% of offenders reported that a relative was their first victim.
- ♦ 66% knew 1<sup>st</sup> victim for a year or more.

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**Seduction of Children  
"Monsters do not get children, nice men do."**

- ♦ Engagement, desensitization and sexualization.
  - Study and befriend the child.
  - Develop a peer relationship or elevate the child to an "adult status" in the relationship.
  - Promote physical contact - "wrestling, hugging, tickling, kissing, massages, lap sitting and backrubs."
  - Confidence building by "over complimenting," flattery, confiding, "sticking up for them."
  - Test child's ability to "keep secrets."
  - Expose child to sexual jokes and pornography

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### 'Grooming' and the Sexual Abuse of Children: Implications for Sex Offender Assessment, Treatment and Management (McAlinden, 2013)

- ♦ Rather than getting the child to acquiesce to abuse, grooming may take the form of normalizing sexually inappropriate or harmful sexual behavior to the extent that the victim does not even perceive themselves as having been abused.
- ♦ Particularly if the behavior stems from ordinary routines, such as bedtime, bathing and cuddling.

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### Goals – The Uncle/Neighbor

- To "test the water"
  - "the frog in a pot of boiling water."
- Create an illusion of trust/safety/affection
  - "Andy of Mayberry."
- Avoid suspicion
- Deflect accusations
- Separately, behaviors look innocent, taken together, they look more sinister.

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### "I found Jesus on the way to court."

- ♦ Remorse can be faked.
- ♦ Remorse can be self-centered/self-serving.
  - Angry/sad victim rejected or told on them.
  - Believe victim led them on or didn't resist.
  - Angry/sad they got caught and punished
  - Victim was equally to blame for what happened.
  - Believe they were the person most harmed.
  - Don't really appreciate harm to victim.
  - Angry/sad about ongoing consequences to themselves, "not a day goes by that I don't live with the consequences of what I did."

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### More "Seduction."

"In order to normalize what I was doing to her, I'd playfully grope her mother in front of her."

"I would leave the bathroom door open and let them see me masturbating."

"I found them looking at a porn site and let them keep looking at it instead of punishing them."

"I would put on a porn video and started rubbing myself while she was in the room, you wouldn't believe how curious 11 year old girls are about stuff like that."

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### Keeping Children From Telling

- ♦ Tell them it's "not a big deal and everyone already knows."
- ♦ Suggest "no one will believe them."
- ♦ "Rope them into doing something bad so they won't want everything to come out."
- ♦ "I said people would blame them, and it would hurt our family.
- ♦ "I told her we would get a divorce and the other kids would lose their dad."
- ♦ "I told him the other students would hate him."

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### More "We" Tactics

- ♦ Get victim to go "lock the front door."
- ♦ Go "get the lubricant."
- ♦ "Close blind."
- ♦ "Send the other kids out to play."
- ♦ "Call mom to see how long it will be before she will get home."
- ♦ Text/email/kick with victim about sex and send nude photos.

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### Discrediting the child.

- ♦ "I told them she was mad because I punished her."
- ♦ "I said she wanted to go live with her mother so she accused me of this to get out of the house and away from my rules."
- ♦ "I said she said I did this because I wouldn't let her date."
- ♦ "I said her friend made something like this up and got a lot of attention so she did it."
- ♦ "I told people that her mother coached her to get back at me."

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### Seducing Adults – Exploiting our Strengths and Weaknesses.

- ♦ "My persona was upstanding, law abiding, bill-paying, intelligent and kind."
- ♦ "I made myself out to be a pillar of the community"
- ♦ Verbalized "hatred" toward sex offenders.
- ♦ "I was always helpful and polite."
- ♦ I'd "set things up to make the kid look like a liar."
- ♦ If "head of the household," he may be controlling, run his wife down, interfere with her relationships with children/victims.

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### "Lying, it's easy."

- ♦ "I said I couldn't believe people would believe I was the kind of person who would do something like that."
- ♦ "I said I would not admit to something I didn't do."
- ♦ "I said I was never alone with her and they believed me."
- ♦ "I said my wife was out to get me and coached her."
- ♦ "I said my brother in law always wanted me out the family and this was his way of doing it."

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### Going to Court

- ♦ "I had my whole family believing she lied. They even wrote character letters to the Judge for me saying what an honest person I was and how they knew I would never hurt a child."
- ♦ "Most of the mothers of my victims knew about my violent side and kept their daughters from testifying."
- ♦ "I downloaded some junk about how to pass the polygraph and it worked."

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### *Examining the modus operandi of sexual offenders against children and it's practical implication (Leclerc, et al. 2009)*

- ♦ Suggests we view sex offender behavior as a "rational choice," that occurs during all criminal acts i.e., maximizing gain while minimizing risk of apprehension
- ♦ Evidence that offenders' MO changes with age and experience to increase success.
- ♦ Suggests a broader view of MO that incorporates victim characteristics and behavior

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### Recommended Books and Videos

- ♦ **Tools of the Trade**
- ♦ **Truth, Lies and Sex Offenders** by Anna Salter
  - Available via Specialized Training Services (\$79)
  - 1-800-848-1226
- ♦ **Close to Home** by the Mark McGwire Foundation
  - Available via Amazon.com (\$30)
- ♦ **A Very Touching Book & There is No Sex Fairy.** By Jan Hindman  
[www.janhindman.com](http://www.janhindman.com)
- ♦ **Predators: Pedophiles, Rapists & Other Sex Offenders** by Anna Salter.
- ♦ **Identifying Child Molesters** by Carla van Dam.
- ♦ **The Socially Skilled Child Molester** by Carla van Dam

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