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**Special Commission Briefing Book**

***Jointly Created by MATSA and MASOC***

***September 11, 2014***

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In 2013, the MA Legislature established a special Commission to investigate and study the most reliable protocols for assessing and managing the risk of recidivism of sex offenders.

The Commission was charged with developing risk assessment protocols for sexual offenders including, but not limited to, the following populations: juveniles, female offenders and persons with developmental, intellectual, psychiatric or other disabilities. In addition, the Commission is charged with assessing the effectiveness and necessity of sections 178C to 178P, inclusive, of chapter 6 of the General Laws and the guidelines promulgated by the sex offender registry board, pursuant to section 178K. In its work, the Commission will: determine (i) a sex offender’s risk of re-offense; (ii) his or her degree of dangerousness posed to the public; and (iii) the general public’s access to information based upon the offender’s risk of re-offense and the degree of dangerousness.

Given the range of backgrounds of those participating in the Commission, MATSA and MASOC has identified a curated selection of current research on the various populations identified in this mandate as well as some overviews that might be helpful for this discussion.

We acknowledge that these articles are only a small sampling of the emerging research in the field. However, we thought it would be helpful to identify the most current research articles in our joint fields that study adults and adolescents who have sexually abused. Furthermore, if there is additional information needed from this perspective, the members of MATSA and MASOC would be pleased to be a resource or provide access to additional research.

**Background**

The Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, Inc. (MATSA), formed in 1995, is a non-profit local chapter of the national parent organization. MATSA is dedicated to principles that foster research and information exchange, further professional education, and advance professional standards and practice in the field of sex offender evaluation and treatment. MATSA currently has over 100 members in Massachusetts and surrounding states. For more information, visit the website at [www.matsa.org](http://www.matsa.org) or contact at [LreGdry@aol.com](mailto:LreGdry@aol.com)

The Massachusetts Adolescent Sex Offender Coalition (MASOC) is a coalition of professionals committed to preventing sexual abuse through early intervention in the lives of children and adolescents who have sexually abused. Since its founding in 1986, MASOC has been providing training to professionals throughout New England and nationally; educating legislators and key stakeholders about critical policy changes; and coordinating all of our efforts with professionals who care deeply about children and teens, and keeping our communities safe for everyone. For more information, visit the website at [www.masoc.net](http://www.masoc.net) or contact at [info@masoc.net](mailto:info@masoc.net).

**Briefing Book**

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* The Recidivism Rates of Female Offenders are Low: A Meta-Analysis by F Cortoni, RK Hanson, and M Coache.

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* Study Characteristics and Recidivism Base Rates in Juvenile Sex Offender Recidivism by M Caldwell.

*Additional Reading Suggestions about Adolescents*

# Additional Reading about Adolescents

# Overview

A comprehensive set of reviews on the state of the science and clinical practice is contained in a recent special issue of *the International Journal of Behavioral Consultation and Therapy*, edited by Phil Rich. A great volume, and its available free @ [http://baojournal.com/IJBCT/IJBCT-8\_3-4/IJBCT-8\_3-4.html](https://mail.mspp.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=m7oE8-Lkuk62o0CkAvRADGvTcu_vkNFI1rE67TrshO7ZpcDnr76uGkTHalCzMc3P1Id7r_xbth4.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fbaojournal.com%2fIJBCT%2fIJBCT-8_3-4%2fIJBCT-8_3-4.html)

# General Developmental Framework

Cook, A., Spinazzola, J. et al (2005).Complex Trauma in Children and Adolescents*, Psychiatric Annals, 35 (5),* pp. 390-398

Steinberg, L., & Scott, E. S. (2003). Less guilty by reason of adolescence. *American Psychologist, 58,* 1009-1018.  
  
Reforming Juvenile Justice (2013). National Academy of Science. Bonney, Richard et al., Eds. Chapter 4: Adolescent development. [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\_id=14685](https://mail.mspp.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=m7oE8-Lkuk62o0CkAvRADGvTcu_vkNFI1rE67TrshO7ZpcDnr76uGkTHalCzMc3P1Id7r_xbth4.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.nap.edu%2fcatalog.php%3frecord_id%3d14685))  
  
APA Amicus Brief for Miller vs. Alabama (2013). [http://www.apa.org/about/offices/ogc/amicus/miller-hobbs.aspx](https://mail.mspp.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=m7oE8-Lkuk62o0CkAvRADGvTcu_vkNFI1rE67TrshO7ZpcDnr76uGkTHalCzMc3P1Id7r_xbth4.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.apa.org%2fabout%2foffices%2fogc%2famicus%2fmiller-hobbs.aspx)

# Developmental Framework for PSB/JSO in Children/Adolescents

Latham, C., & Kinscherff. R. (2012). *A developmental perspective on the meaning of problematic sexual behavior in children and adolescents*. Holyoke, MA: NEARI Press.

# Longo, R. E., & Prescott, D. S. (2006). *Current perspectives: Working with sexually aggressive youth and youth with sexual behavior problems*. Chapter one

# Rich, P. (2009). Understanding Complexity in Sexually Abusive Youth. In J. T. Andrade (Ed). *Handbook of Violence Risk Assessment and Treatment for Forensic Social Workers*

# Recidivism and Risk Assessment

DiCataldo, Frank (2013). Risk assessment instruments for juvenile sex offenders. Sex Offender Law Report, 14(5), 65-80.

# Risk Management and Intervention

Creeden, K. (2005). Trauma and Neurobiology: Considerations for the treatment of sexual behavior problems in children and adolescents. In R. Longo and D. Prescott (Eds.). *Current Perspectives: Working with sexually aggressive youth and youth with sexual behavior problems.* Holyoke, MA: NEARI Press.

Letourneau, E., Henggeler, S., and Borduin (2009). MST for JSO: 1 year results from randomized effectiveness trial. Journal of Family Psychology, 23, 89-102.  
  
Letourneau, E. (2009). Does SORNA work with juveniles?

Lipsey, M. (2009). The Primary Factors that Characterize Effective Interventions with Juvenile Offenders: A Meta-Analytic Overview. *Victims and Offenders, 4:2,* 124-147