

SUMMARY OF KEY
COMPONENTS AND
GUIDELINES

PCSOT Model Policy Overview (2021)

Evidence-Based Approach



Based on knowledge and principles derived from existing research of polygraph testing, risk assessment, risk management, and behavioral/mental health treatment of persons convicted of a sexual offense.



Face-valid principles prevail in the absence of EB regarding polygraph testing and related fields of science, including psychology, physiology, mental health treatment, risk assessment, signal detection, decision theory, inferential statistics, and predictive analytics.



Evolving evidence from empirical studies dictates that periodic review and amendments would be necessary to any policy guidelines. EB information should prevail.

PCSOT Program Goals



Core Principles



EVIDENCE-BASED
APPROACH



FACE-VALID
PRINCIPLES



MULTIDISCIPLINARY
COLLABORATION



CONFIDENTIALITY
AND MANDATORY
REPORTING



RESPECT FOR RIGHTS
AND DIGNITY

2024 Arizona Revised Statutes

Title 13 - Criminal Code

§ 13-4066 - Privileged communication; sex offender treatment; exception



- A. Any statement that is made by a person who undergoes sex offender treatment that is ordered by the court or that is provided by the state department of corrections or the department of juvenile corrections to a person who is convicted of an offense listed in chapter 14 or 35.1 of this title and any evidence that results from that treatment is not admissible against the person in any criminal or juvenile delinquency proceeding unless the person consents, except that the statement or evidence may be used pursuant to rule 404 (b) and (c), Arizona rules of evidence.
- B. This section does not apply if there is a reasonable belief that the person has committed a new violation of chapter 14 or 35.1 of this title during the course of the person's treatment. A treatment provider who complies with this subsection does not violate any privilege established by law.

Additional principles regarding ethical and legal compliance:

Polygraph examiner is part of the supervision and treatment team

Non-interference with ongoing investigations

Known vs unknown allegations

Ethical and professional roles
(no dual roles allowed)

Number & length of examinations:

Examination techniques – Validated APA techniques only

Operational objectives:

INCREASED
DISCLOSURE

DETERRENCE OF
PROBLEM
BEHAVIOR

PRO-ACTIVE
INTERVENTION TO
ANY ESCALATION
OF RISK TO OTHERS
IN THE
COMMUNITY

ENHANCED
ENGAGEMENT TO
DEMONSTRATE
COMPLIANCE WITH
TREATMENT AND
SUPERVISION
PLANS

Decision-Support

Professional judgement:

- Polygraphy provides information, and the decisions based on that information are the responsibility of professionals. Polygraph test results should not replace or supersede the need for professional expertise and judgment.
- The probabilistic nature of polygraph test outcomes should be taken into account when used as part of the professional decision-making process.

Successive hurdles:

- Mixed-issue exams vs single-issue exams

Confidentiality:

- Examiners are not considered mandated reporters, but others in the community supervision team may be

Operational definitions:

Physical sexual contact

Physical contact

Non-contact sexual behaviors

Unapproved contact w/minors

Force (real or implied violence)

Alone/unsupervised contact

Coercion (non-violent)

Approved Supervisor

Grooming

Pornography

Manipulation

Child Sexually Explicit Material (CSEM)

Relative (family member)

Sexually stimulating material

Minor, child, and underage person

Sexual thought vs sexual fantasy

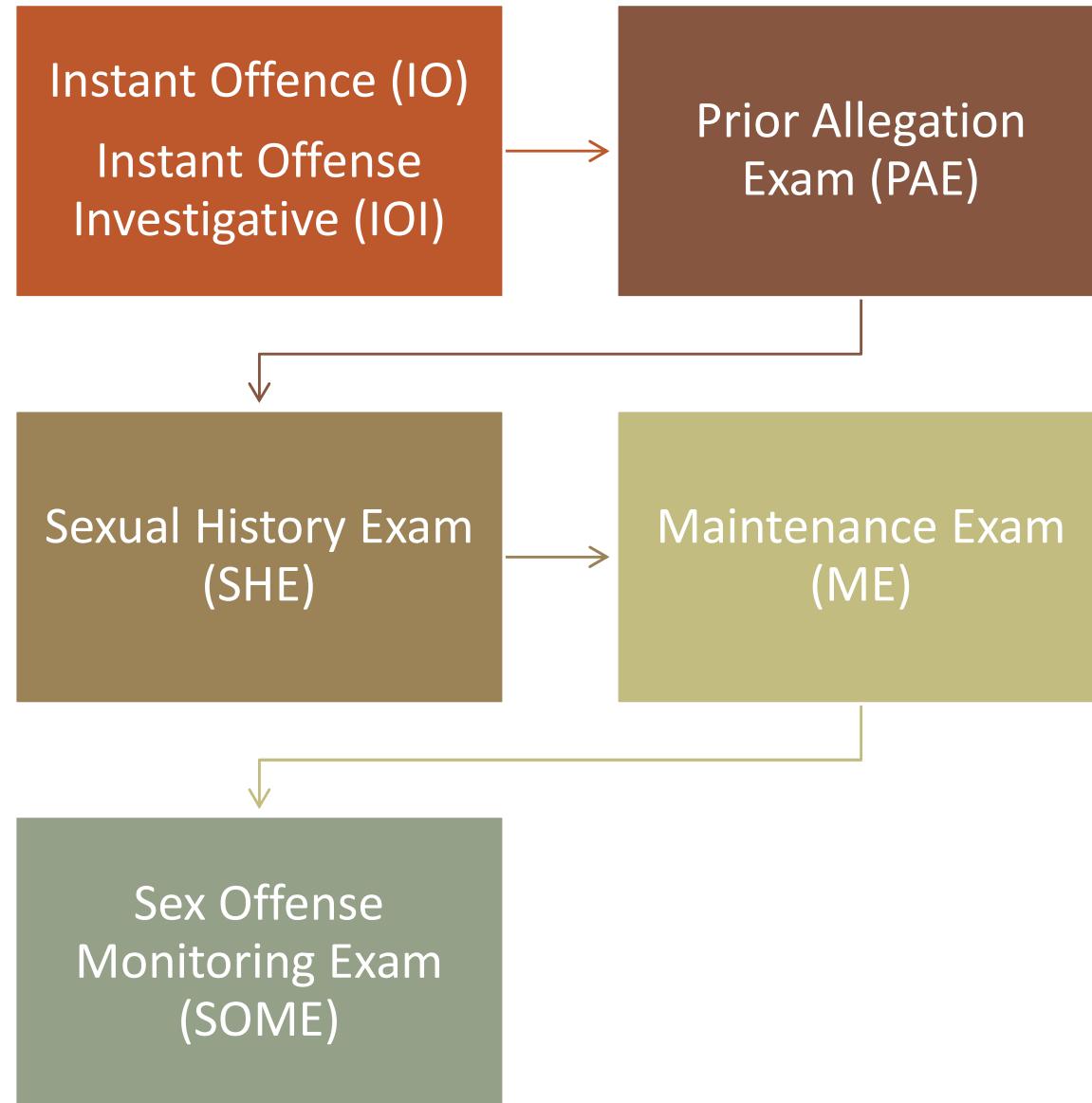
Incidental contact

Masturbation

Examination questions:

Guidelines for content and structure:

- answerable by a “NO” without unnecessary mental exercise or uncertainty;
- behaviorally descriptive of the examinee’s direct or possible involvement in an issue of concern;
- simple, direct, and easily understood by the examinee;
- time-delimited (date of incident or time of reference);
- free of assumptions of guilt or deception;
- free of jargon or legal terms
- free of reference to mental state (intent) or motivation, except to the extent that memory or sexual motivation may be the subject of the examination following an admission of behavior



Types of PCSOT exams



PRETEST INTERVIEW



IN-TEST OPERATIONS



POST-TEST REVIEW



CASE BACKGROUND
INFORMATION



AUDIO-VISUAL
RECORDING

Testing Procedures Guidelines



APA-accredited polygraph
training



40 hours of specialized PCSOT
training



30 hours of continuing
education every 2 years



Adherence to APA Standards of
Practice

Examiner Standards

Quality Assurance



AUDIO/VIDEO
RECORDING OF EXAMS



DATA RETENTION FOR
MINIMUM 3 YEARS



ANNUAL PEER REVIEW
OF EXAMINER WORK

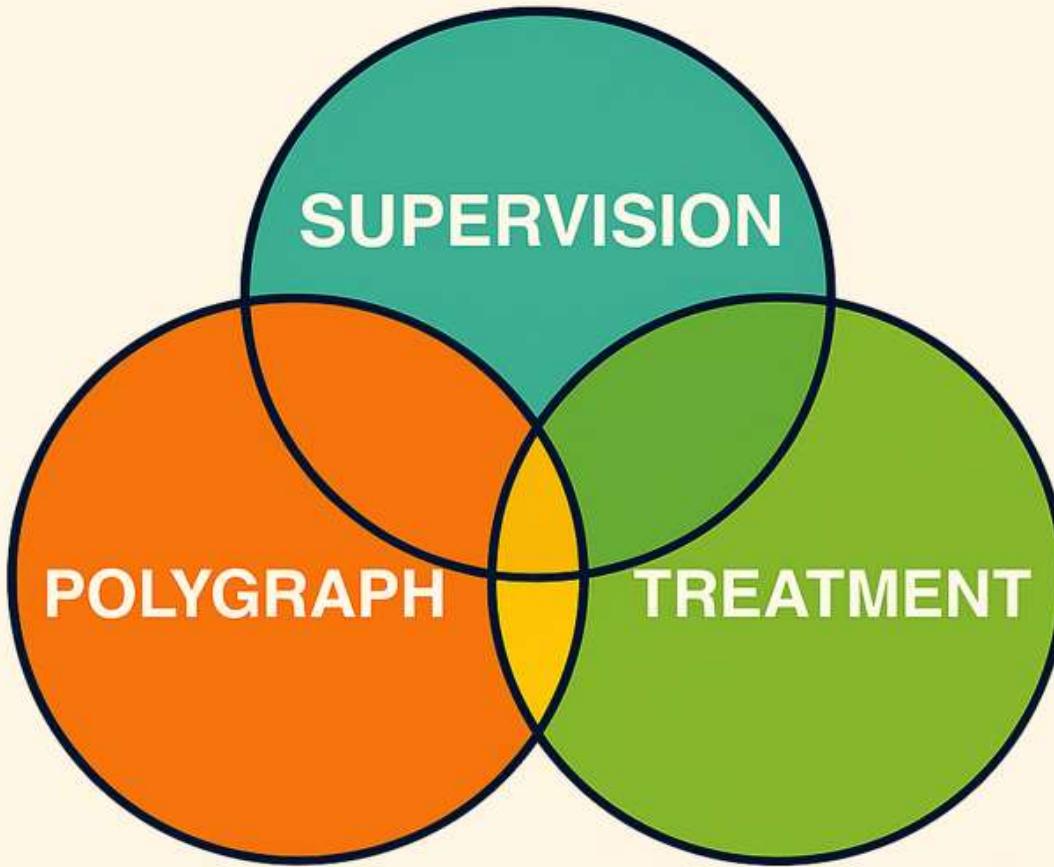
MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM
INCLUDES SUPERVISION
OFFICERS, TREATMENT
PROVIDERS, AND
POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS.



COLLABORATIVE
APPROACH ENHANCES
RISK MANAGEMENT AND
TREATMENT OUTCOMES.

PCSOT Workflow & Team Roles

CONTAINMENT MODEL



**POST-CONVICTED SEX
OFFENDER TESTING**



- Shared responsibility for risk management



- Regular information exchange



- Unified intervention strategies



- Victim safety as top priority

Collaboration
Zone