



BACKGROUND MATERIAL

May 18, 2026



BACKGROUND MATERIAL

May 18, 2026

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Webform submission from: SOMB Call to the Public - Written Public Comment

From Department of Public Safety <do_not_reply@azdps.gov>

Date Mon 4/20/2026 2:33 PM

To Arizona Sex Offender Management Board <AZSOMB@AZDPS.GOV>

Caution: The following message contains information provided by an anonymous user through an online form. Please treat the below message with caution, avoid clicking links, downloading attachments, or replying with personal information.



Arizona Department of Public Safety

2222 W. Encanto Blvd.

Phoenix, AZ 85009

Submitted on Mon, 04/20/2026 - 07:33

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your Name

Charles cole

Email Address

[REDACTED]

What part of the agenda does your written comment relate to?

An item on the Consent or General Session portion of the agenda.

Please provide your written comment in the field below.

Public comment regarding Charles D. Cole's SOMB-related supervision, treatment posture, and classification.

I respectfully ask that my case be considered on a full and updated factual record, not only on the original narrative.

I am currently in year eight of a ten-year probation term that began in January 2018. Before later violations, I completed approximately four years of clean probation from 2019 through 2023. During that period, I maintained compliance, completed treatment, and made substantial progress. That history should matter. It reflects sustained rehabilitation and shows that my case should not be evaluated as though no meaningful progress ever occurred.

I also ask that the Board consider that the factual record has materially changed. The complaining witness has now provided multiple forms of corroboration, including a sworn affidavit, written communication to the prosecutor, and statements at the February 11, 2026 revocation hearing, confirming that she misled me through false identification and misrepresentation of age. She has stated that I was unaware of her true age, that she does not view me as someone who preys on minors, and that she supports my freedom.

I am submitting or have submitted the February 11, 2026 hearing audio so the Board can review this corroboration directly. That recording is important because it confirms that her present position is not limited to paperwork alone. It was stated personally and on the record.

These changed factual factors directly affect how my case should be viewed in terms of risk, treatment assumptions, classification, and fairness. If the underlying facts supporting the original narrative have materially changed, then continued reliance on old assumptions without meaningful reassessment creates an inaccurate and unjust management posture.

I also note that my federal habeas remains pending and that the merits of this later evidence have not been fully heard in a live evidentiary setting. I mention that only to show that these issues remain active and unresolved on the truth of what happened.

Please ensure my case is evaluated on corrected facts and that my SOMB classification and management reflect that reality. I am respectfully asking that the Board consider my completed treatment, my years of clean probation, and the materially changed factual record, including the witness affidavit, prosecutor email, and February 11, 2026 hearing audio, in evaluating any SOMB-related treatment, supervision, or classification issues connected to my case.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ci [REDACTED]

I understand this notice

YES, I Understand this Notice

Arizona Department of Public Safety

2222 W. Encanto Blvd.

Phoenix, AZ 85009

(602) 223-2000

<https://www.azdps.gov/>

Webform submission from: SOMB Call to the Public - Written Public Comment

From Department of Public Safety <do_not_reply@azdps.gov>

Date Mon 4/20/2026 3:11 PM

To Arizona Sex Offender Management Board <AZSOMB@AZDPS.GOV>

Caution: The following message contains information provided by an anonymous user through an online form. Please treat the below message with caution, avoid clicking links, downloading attachments, or replying with personal information.



Arizona Department of Public Safety
2222 W. Encanto Blvd.
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Submitted on Mon, 04/20/2026 - 08:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Your Name

Charles cole

Email Address

What part of the agenda does your written comment relate to?

An item on the Consent or General Session portion of the agenda.

Please provide your written comment in the field below.

Public Comment Statement – Arizona Capitol

Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB)

Good morning. My name is Charles D. Cole.

I am here today to provide public comment regarding my case as it relates to sex-offender management, treatment, and classification under SOMB standards.

I am currently in year eight of a ten-year probation term that began in January 2018. Before later violations, I completed approximately four years of clean probation from 2019 through 2023. During that time, I maintained compliance, completed treatment, and made substantial progress.

That history should matter. It reflects sustained rehabilitation and shows that my case should not be evaluated as though no meaningful progress occurred.

I am here today because the factual record in my case has materially changed.

The complaining witness has now provided multiple forms of corroboration, including a sworn affidavit, written communication to the prosecutor, and statements made during my February 11, 2026 revocation hearing.

In those statements, she confirms that she misled me through false identification and

misrepresentation of age, that I was unaware of her true age, and that she supports my freedom.

She has also stated that she does not view me as someone who preys on minors.

I have submitted the February 11 hearing audio so that this Board can review that corroboration directly.

This evidence is consistent, repeated, and directly relevant to how my case should be understood.

These changed factual factors directly affect how my case is being managed in terms of risk, treatment assumptions, and classification.

Despite this, my case continues to be managed based on the original narrative, without meaningful reassessment.

I also want to raise concerns about how my case is being managed overall. I feel that I am being set up to fail rather than fairly evaluated on the complete and updated facts.

I am being required to restart sex offender treatment despite not committing any new sex-related offense, and without any new clinical assessment or updated testing to justify that decision.

Behavioral health standards require that treatment decisions be based on current clinical evaluation and individualized need. Restarting treatment without new risk factors or reassessment raises concerns about whether accepted professional and ethical standards are being followed. I believe this restart is not clinically driven, but instead is being done at the request of probation rather than based on an updated clinical determination of risk or need.

I also have serious concerns regarding how fines, fees, and custody time have been calculated.

I was up to date prior to my August 13, 2023 Petition to Revoke. I remained in that status until reinstatement on August 29, 2024, and I believe fees may have been assessed during that tolled period.

After reinstatement, I served a six-month jail sentence beginning the day after Thanksgiving 2024. I also question whether fees were assessed during that time in custody.

I am now being told that I owe more than \$4,000, which I believe does not accurately reflect my payment history, my tolled status, or the time I spent in custody.

I am concerned that these financial assessments, combined with the requirement to restart treatment without clinical basis, create the appearance that I am not meeting probation standards, despite my prior compliance and treatment completion.

I am not asking this Board to change my sentence or override the court.

I am asking for fairness and accuracy in how my case is evaluated under SOMB standards.

I respectfully request that my treatment, supervision, and classification be re-evaluated under SOMB standards based on the complete and updated factual record.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cr [REDACTED]

I understand this notice

YES, I Understand this Notice

Arizona Department of Public Safety

2222 W. Encanto Blvd.

Phoenix, AZ 85009

(602) 223-2000

<https://www.azdps.gov/>

From: Director AZRSOL <contact@azrsol.org>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 1:50 PM
To: Arizona Sex Offender Management Board
Subject: Follow-Up: April 20 Testimony — Colorado Annual Report & Rutgers Symposium
Attachments: 2026 Colorado SOMB Annual Legislative Report.pdf

Categories: Call to the Public Written Comments

Dear Members of the Arizona Sex Offender Management Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the board on April 20. As promised, I am following up with the resources referenced during my testimony, including a link to the Rutgers symposium and the attached Colorado 2026 Annual Legislative Report.

Below is the full text of my remarks for your reference.

April 20, 2026 Presentation to the Arizona Sex Offender Management Board
Presented by Patricia Borden
On Behalf of 17,000+ Arizonans on Sexual Offense Registries and Their Loved Ones

Good afternoon. My name is Patricia Borden, and I speak today on behalf of over 17,000 Arizonans on the sexual offense registry — and the families who love them and navigate this system every day.

I want to share what is working elsewhere.

Colorado's Sex Offender Management Board just released their 2026 Annual Legislative Report, and the findings are significant. Their research confirms that evidence-based, cognitive-behavioral treatment reduces sexual recidivism by 10 to 30 percent. Their own outcome data show a sexual re-offense rate of just 1.3% among community treatment clients. That is a number that deserves to sit with all of us for a moment — because it tells a very different story than the one that often drives policy.

Colorado also found that community-based treatment consistently outperforms incarceration-only approaches. Housing stability, employment, and social support are central to public safety outcomes — not secondary concerns. Risk level actually decreased for roughly half of moderate-risk clients who completed treatment. That is rehabilitation working as it's supposed to.

Colorado isn't just producing research — they are acting on it. Stakeholder roundtables, a strategic planning initiative, expanded provider access — and this July, a Summit in the Rockies, July 14 through 17 in Breckenridge, drawing over 500 professionals. I encourage this board to consider attending.

I share all of this because the people I represent deserve a system that follows the evidence with the same seriousness Colorado is demonstrating. They are not abstractions in a report. They are our neighbors, and they are watching what this board does.

A Question for This Board: Civil Commitment and a Path Forward

On April 17 — just days ago — Rutgers University Law School hosted a symposium titled "No Exit:

Challenging 'Civil' Commitment and Indefinite Confinement of People Convicted of Sex Crimes." Scholars, clinicians, lawyers, and people with lived experience gathered to examine civil commitment systems and explore paths toward accountability and reform. That event has passed — but what it represents has not.

Across the country, researchers, clinicians, and policymakers are asking hard questions about civil commitment — whether it achieves its goals, and what a real path out looks like for people who have completed treatment and demonstrated change.

My question for this board is direct: Is this board actively seeking out and attending conferences and convenings focused on civil commitment reform — learning what other states are doing to create a genuine path forward for people in these programs?

The people I represent who are civilly committed are not there without end because the evidence demands it — they are there because the system has not built an off-ramp. Other states are building one. We would like to know if Arizona is paying attention, and if not, we are asking this board to start.

Rutgers Symposium — No Exit: Challenging 'Civil' Commitment and Indefinite Confinement of People Convicted of Sex Crimes:

<https://events.law.rutgers.edu/event/no-exit-challenging-civil-commitment-and-indefinite-confinement-of-people-convicted-of-sex-crimes>

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. I look forward to continuing this conversation.

Respectfully,

Patricia & Terry Borden, Directors



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w: www.azrsol.org



w: www.narsol.org

From: Rachel S Bretz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2026 5:28 PM
To: Arizona Sex Offender Management Board
Subject: Thank you and follow up request.

Categories: Call to the Public Written Comments

Dear Chairperson Goulden and Members of the Board,

Thank you for the recent letter outlining the Board’s opposition to SB1709. The inclusion of the Board’s reasoning—particularly around judicial discretion, risk-based vs. offense-based policy, and the real-world impact of minor violations—was extremely helpful in understanding the Board’s position and communicating it accurately to others.

I wanted to ask whether the Board might consider reissuing or supplementing the earlier March 9 letter regarding HB2870, HB2966, and SB1829 with similar explanatory detail. Aligning those communications with the level of clarity provided in the subsequent letters would be valuable for legislators and stakeholders who continue to reference those materials.

I appreciate the time and care that goes into these summaries, as well as the Board’s continued transparency and thoughtful engagement on these issues.

Thank you again for your work and consideration.

- Rachel

Rachel S Bretz
Arizona Constituent, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Marina Fleetwood <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 9:55 PM
To: Arizona Sex Offender Management Board
Subject: Summit in the Rockies on Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management

Categories: Call to the Public Written Comments

Dear Major Mitchell,

I'm writing to share an outstanding professional development opportunity that aligns closely with the mission and work of the Arizona Sex Offender Management Board.

The Summit on Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management will take place July 14–17 in Breckenridge, Colorado with registration closing in June.

This nationally recognized conference brings together approximately 500 professionals each year from across the country.

The Summit is specifically designed for multidisciplinary professionals, including treatment providers, evaluators, polygraph examiners, victim advocates, attorneys, judges, law enforcement, and supervision officers—making it highly relevant to AZSOMB board members and its expert community.

Programming covers a wide range of timely and impactful topics, including:

- **Emerging research and innovations in treatment and management**
- **Advanced evaluation techniques and differential treatment approaches**
- **Trauma-informed care, brain development, and family systems**
- **Judicial decision-making and legal best practices**
- **Multidisciplinary collaboration and supervision strategies**
- **Victim advocacy, restorative justice, and prevention efforts**
- **Addressing rural service challenges and diverse populations**

Given that AZSOMB has historically modeled aspects of its framework after Colorado Sex Offender Management Board, this conference offers a unique opportunity for Arizona's experts to engage directly with leading practitioners, exchange ideas, and stay at the forefront of evidence-based practices.

For those unable to travel, a virtual option is also available, providing access to recorded sessions.

Encouraging AZSOMB members and affiliated professionals to attend—whether in person or virtually—would support continued excellence, informed decision-

making, and strengthened collaboration in Arizona's approach to sex offender management and victim advocacy.

Thank you for sharing this opportunity with the board.

Respectfully,

Marina

ODVSOM: Summit in the Rockies on
Domestic Violence and Sex Offender
Management | Division of Criminal Justice
dcj.colorado.gov

