



BACKGROUND MATERIAL

AZSOMB JUVENILE GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE

September 24, 2026

ATSA DEFINITION OF
CHILDREN WITH SEXUAL BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

PROVIDED BY

HON. ANNA YOUNG,

PRESIDING JUVENILE COURT JUDGE

Here's a section of the definition from page 1 of the Children with Sexual Behavior Problems, 2nd edition (2023):

Children with sexual behavior problems are defined as those aged 12 and younger who initiate sexualized behaviors that are developmentally inappropriate or potentially harmful to themselves or others. The phrase "sexual behavior problems" does not refer to a medical or psychological condition or a particular diagnosable disorder. Instead, it encompasses a range of behaviors that can be directed at oneself or directed toward others and that fall outside of acceptable societal limits. These behaviors could also be associated with technology or social media apps.

The range of behaviors involved is wide and can vary in terms of severity and potential to cause harm. Although the term "sexual" is used, the intentions and motivations for these behaviors are multifaceted and could be related to curiosity, anxiety, imitation, attention seeking, self-calming, sexual stimulation, or other reasons (Chaffin, 2006; Silovsky & Bonner, 2003)