



BACKGROUND MATERIAL

AZSOMB ADULT GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE

OCTOBER 21, 2026

DRAFT

STANDARDS FOR PSYCHOSEXUAL EVALUATIONS

V:10/16/2026

PROVIDED BY

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CHAIRWOMAN, ADULT SUBCOMMITTEE

ARIZONA SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT BOARD

DRAFT — FOR AZSOMB CONSIDERATION

Standards and Guidelines for the Assessment, Evaluation, Treatment and Behavioral Monitoring of Adults Who Have Committed Sexual Offenses

Standards for Psychosexual Evaluations

Drafting note: This document is a proposed draft and should not be represented as an adopted AZSOMB standard unless and until formally approved.

Arizona law allows a trial court and a defendant to request a psychosexual evaluation (PSE) prior to sentencing. It is the position of AZSOMB that voluntary pre-sentencing psychosexual evaluations should be utilized in all appropriate cases due to the importance of the initial assessment information to subsequent sentencing, supervision, and treatment.

Post-sentencing, each convicted adult sex offender who is placed on is-to-be-considered-for probation shall be required to submit to an PSE evaluation post incarceration for treatment, risk and needs, and procedures required for monitoring of behavior to protect victims and potential victims.

Commented [BB1]: Does this phrasing sound like we are promoting private PSEs? Is this our intent versus recommending the Court-ordered evaluations that will follow the SOMB guidelines?

Commented [BB2]: Question from SOMB: If someone is placed on parole initially, do they need a PSE to start parole?

Commented [BB3]: Question from SOMB: what if a PSE is done privately and has contradictory results?

Purpose and Scope of a Psychosexual Evaluation

The purpose of a PSE is to assess an individual's need for treatment, determine what type of treatment is needed, and identify the risk level and any additional needs the person may have. Specifically, the PSE should identify risk and needs related to sexually abusive behavior; inform the need for, type, intensity, and focus of intervention; identify responsivity factors, strengths, and protective factors; and provide information that can assist with appropriate treatment, management, monitoring, supervision, and case planning.¹

An evaluation should provide a clinically and forensically appropriate conceptualization of the individual's sexual offending behavior, relevant criminogenic and non-criminogenic needs, factors associated with sexual and general recidivism, responsivity considerations, and protective factors. The evaluation should be sufficiently comprehensive to support individualized recommendations rather than relying on a single test score, historical label, or offense characteristic.²

Evaluations should inform, as appropriate, treatment planning and progress monitoring, supervision and behavioral monitoring, case management, transition and reentry planning, and decisions for which a current risk and needs assessment is relevant.⁴ The evaluation is one component of a broader multidisciplinary decision-making process and should not be treated as the sole basis for a legal or clinical disposition.

1. McGrath, R.J. (2016). Clinical strategies for evaluating sexual offenders. In A. Phenix & H. M. Hoberman (Eds.), *Sexual Offending: Predisposing antecedents, assessments and management* (pp. 265–278). Springer;

Wormith, J. S. & Zidenberg, A. M. (2018). The historical roots, current status, and future applications of the Risk-Need-Responsivity Model (RNR). In E. L. Jeglic & C. Calkins (Eds.), *New frontiers in offender treatment: The translation of evidence-based practices to correctional settings* (pp. 11–41). Springer.

2. Olver, M. E. (2017). The risk-need-responsivity model: Applications to sex offender treatment. In D. P. Boer et al. (Eds.), *The Wiley handbook on the theories, assessment, and treatment of sexual offending* (pp. 1313–1329). Wiley Blackwell; Olver, M. & Wong, S. (2016). Assessing treatment change in sexual offenders. In D. P. Boer (Ed.), *The Wiley handbook on the theories, assessment and treatment of sexual offending*, Vols. 1–3 (pp. 787–810). Wiley-Blackwell; Thaker, J. (2016). Case formulation. In D. P. Boer (Ed.), *The Wiley handbook on the theories, assessment and treatment of sexual offending*, Vols. 1–3 (pp. 737–751). Wiley-Blackwell; Ware, J. & Matsuo, D. (2016). Risk assessment and treatment planning. In D. P. Boer (Ed.), *The Wiley handbook on the theories, assessment and treatment of sexual offending*, Vols. 1–3 (pp. 717–736). Wiley-Blackwell; Van den Berg et al. (2018). The predictive properties of dynamic sex offender risk assessment instruments: A meta-analysis. *Psychological Assessment*, 30(2), 179–191; Wilson, R. J., Sandler, J. C., & McCartan, K. (2020). Community dynamic risk management of persons who have sexually offended. In J. Proulx et al. (Eds.), *The Wiley handbook of what works with sexual offenders: Contemporary perspectives in theory, assessment, treatment, and prevention* (pp. 247–263). John Wiley & Sons.

3. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 13-3828(D)(1); see also § 13-3828(D)(4).

4. McGrath, R.J. (2016). Clinical strategies for evaluating sexual offenders. In A. Phenix & H. M. Hoberman (Eds.), *Sexual Offending: Predisposing antecedents, assessments and management* (pp. 265–278). Springer; Ware, J. & Matsuo, D. (2016). Risk assessment and treatment planning. In D. P. Boer (Ed.), *The Wiley handbook on the theories, assessment and treatment of sexual offending*, Vols. 1–3 (pp. 717–736). Wiley-Blackwell.



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DRAFT DEFINITION OF SEX OFFENDER

PROVIDED BY

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ARIZONA SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT BOARD

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Definition of Sex Offender

Drafting note: This document is a proposed draft and should not be represented as an adopted AZSOMB standard unless and until formally approved.

Proposed language: “Sex offender” means any adult person who has been convicted of or adjudicated guilty except insane for a violation or attempted violation of any of the following offenses or who has been convicted of or adjudicated guilty except insane or not guilty by reason of insanity for an offense committed in another jurisdiction that if committed in this state would be a violation or attempted violation of any of the following offenses or an offense that was in effect before September 1, 1978 and that, if committed on or after September 1, 1978, has the same elements of an offense listed in this section:

1. Unlawful imprisonment pursuant to section 13-1303 if the victim is under eighteen years of age and the unlawful imprisonment was not committed by the child's parent.
2. Kidnapping pursuant to section 13-1304 if the victim is under eighteen years of age and the kidnapping was not committed by the child's parent.
3. Sexual abuse pursuant to section 13-1404 if the victim is under eighteen years of age.
4. Sexual conduct with a minor pursuant to section 13-1405.
5. Sexual assault pursuant to section 13-1406.
6. Sexual assault of a spouse if the offense was committed before August 12, 2005.
7. Molestation of a child pursuant to section 13-1410.
8. Continuous sexual abuse of a child pursuant to section 13-1417.
9. Taking a child for the purpose of prostitution pursuant to section 13-3206.
10. Child prostitution pursuant to section 13-3212, subsection A or subsection B, paragraph 1 or 2 committed before August 9, 2017.
11. Child sex trafficking pursuant to section 13-3212, subsection A or subsection B, paragraph 1 or 2 committed on or after August 9, 2017.

12. Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to section 13-3552.
13. Sexual exploitation of a minor pursuant to section 13-3553.
14. Luring a minor for sexual exploitation pursuant to section 13-3554.
15. A second or subsequent violation of indecent exposure to a person who is under fifteen years of age pursuant to section 13-1402.
16. A second or subsequent violation of public sexual indecency to a minor who is under fifteen years of age pursuant to section 13-1403, subsection B.
17. A third or subsequent violation of indecent exposure pursuant to section 13-1402.
18. A third or subsequent violation of public sexual indecency pursuant to section 13-1403.
19. A violation of section 13-3822 or 13-3824.
20. Unlawful age misrepresentation.
21. Aggravated luring a minor for sexual exploitation pursuant to section 13-3560.
22. Sexual extortion pursuant to section 13-1428 if the victim is under fifteen years of age.

Considerations for inclusion or editing:

Convicted and who is subject to parole or probation supervision pursuant to an interstate compact.

Any person convicted in Arizona of any criminal offense with the underlying factual basis being a sex offense, or; any person who receives a deferred judgment or deferred sentence for the offenses specified in below is deemed convicted, or; any person who has previously been convicted of a sex offense in Arizona, or; who has previously been convicted in any other jurisdiction of any offense which would constitute a sex offense in Arizona.

For the purposes of this document, sexual offenses are identified in §ARS XXXX instead of listing out all offenses

Colorado's definition for reference:

The following definition is based on Section 16-11.7-102, C.R.S. For purposes of this document a sex offender is:

1. Any (adult) person convicted of a sex offense (defined below) in Colorado on or after January 1, 1994, or;

2. Any person convicted in Colorado on or after July 1, 2000, of any criminal offense with the underlying factual basis being a sex offense, or;
3. Any person who is adjudicated as a juvenile or who receives a deferred adjudication on or after July 1, 2002, for an offense that would constitute a sex offense if committed by an adult or for any offense, the underlying factual basis of which involves a sex offense, or;
4. Any person who receives a deferred judgment or deferred sentence for the offenses specified in below is deemed convicted, or;
5. Any (adult) person convicted of any criminal offense in Colorado on or after January 1, 1994, and;
 - a. who has previously been convicted of a sex offense in Colorado, or;
 - b. who has previously been convicted in any other jurisdiction of any offense which would constitute a sex offense in Colorado, or;
 - c. who has a history of any sex offenses as defined in the *Sex Offense* definition below.

The determination of the legal status of a sex offender as either an adult or a juvenile is defined by statute.

A sex offender is also referred to as an "offender" in the body of this document; a sex offender is also referred to as a "client" and an "examinee" in sections relating to treatment and polygraph examinations respectively.

Sex Offense: For the purposes of this document, sexual offenses are identified in §16-11.7-102. For the list of specific crimes, refer to Appendix T.