



How Sex Offenders Groom

Facilitator:

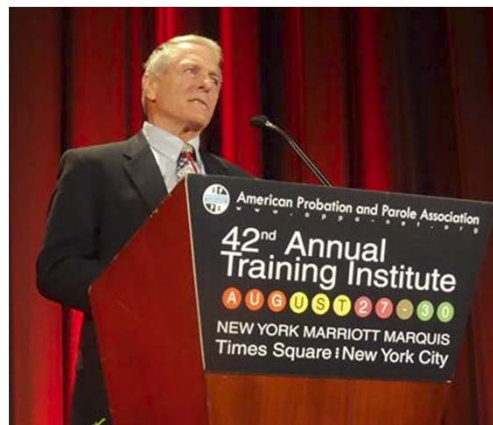
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A Note To Clarify Who's Guilty

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1. Ph.D. in Cognitive Social Psychology, Criminal Justice, and Evaluation Research.
2. Served on faculty at three universities, taught undergrad and grad classes in Criminal Justice, Corrections, Social Psych, and Statistics.
3. Was the 97th person in the world to achieve certification through SANS/GIAC in Computer Security Leadership.
4. Worked with NSA/ASA in Berlin during the 1960s hacking Soviet crypto systems.
5. Started as a Probation Officer in August of 1970. Assigned my first Sex Offender in October of 1970.
6. Worked with sex offenders for the past 48+ years in almost every capacity within the justice system.
7. Developed the Structured Sex Offender Treatment Review (with Dr. Steve Brake). The SSOTR is in use in numerous states.
8. Sworn staff in Colorado - Cyber Crime Analyst – provide service to Probation/Parole in Colorado – examined over 1,700 sex offenders’ computers.
9. Qualified as Expert Witness in Colorado Courts in A) Computer Forensics and B) Sex Offender Cognitive Sets & Grooming Strategies.
10. Instructor on sex offender cognitive sets and field forensics for APPA, NLECTC, HTCIA, USDOJ, DOD, ICAC and other “alphabet” agencies in the US and EU.
11. Project Leader for Field Search, a computer forensic program distributed free to law enforcement. In use world-wide with more than 20,000 users.
12. 2017 recipient of APPA’s University of Cincinnati Award for lifetime contributions to Corrections in the U.S. and Canada.
13. Member, Europol Cybercrime Center Platform for Experts: Child Exploitation Div.



What is Grooming?

“Patterned behavior designed to:
A) increase opportunities for sexual assault
B) minimize victim resistance or withdrawal
C) reduce disclosure or belief.”

Source: www.kbsolutions.com/Grooming.pdf

Predators Systematically Groom Both Victims And The Environment.

Target	Goal
Environment	To increase access to potential victims and reduce the probability of detection.
Victim	To entice and manipulate victims into submission and maintenance of relationship.

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What is a Child's Environment?

Element	Targets
Parent(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother, Father • Step-Parents • Foster Parents, guardians, in loco parentis, etc.
Family Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siblings • Extended family (Uncles/Aunts, Grandparents, Cousins, etc.)
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers (class, specialized, paraprofessionals etc.) • Administration & support • PTO, etc.
Peers and Friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classmates • Friends, etc.
Social Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church (e.g., clergy, congregation, lay staff) • Sports (e.g., coaches, team members, team members' parents) • Interest groups (e.g., dance, art, music - participants and instructors) • Membership groups (e.g., scouts, 4H, clubs - participants and sponsors)
Significant Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbors • Friend's parents • Therapists, service providers • Others involved in child's life

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Grooming The Child's Environment

Grooming the environment serves three primary functions:

Function	Purpose
Access	To provide entrée or continued access to a pool of potential victims.
Allure	To draw potential victims into a relationship with the perpetrator.
Alibi	To reduce the probability of being reported and lower the probability of a reporting victim being believed.

The overall goals of grooming the environment are to find victims and reduce the probability of the offender being reported or the victim being believed.

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Factors Which Assist Environmental Grooming The "PC-PC" Factors

Factor	Element	Example
Position	Social – status derived from occupation or role	Clergy, Police, Teacher, Coach, Parent
	Personal – status derived from deeds or ability to reward	Philanthropist, Coach, Parent
Charm	Personality – affect, looks, verbal skills, listening ability, etc.	"Con-man", "huckster", classic groomer.
Power	Political – power derived from position or role	Authority, Respect, Deference. Cop, Politician, CEO
	Fiscal – power derived from wealth or control of resources	Steward, Parent, CEO, Philanthropist
	Absolute – Physical or tyrannical power	Thug/Pimp, Dictator, "Superior"
Celebrity	Fame – allure derived from notoriety	Media, cultural or athletic "Star", Philanthropist

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Grooming Children – BRAT

Target	Action
Vulnerabilities	Emotional, Social
Bond: Form a special Bond	Treat like an adult Keep secrets Lures Males – 4Ds – Driving, Drinking, Dirty Pictures, Desires Females – LISTS – Love, Interest, Support, Things, Status
Reliance: “push – “pull”	Become center of child's emotional support Isolate child from other adults
Attenuate resistances	Progression – slow step by step introduction Explanation – justify, rationalize, and normalize
Trap – prevent disclosure or escape	Groom – special friend, slips and rewards Threaten – harm, belief, others will know, protect others. Guilt / Fear

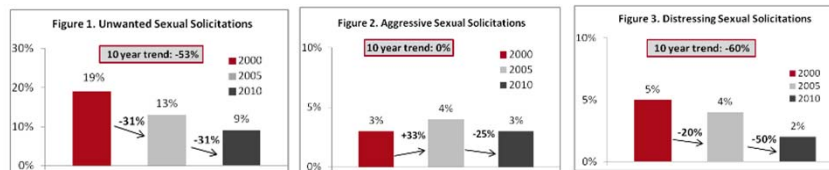
Adapted from material developed by Stephen Brake, Ph.D.
www.stephenbrakeassociates.com

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Percentage of Sex Assaults Against Children Which Originated On The Internet

	2000	2006	2009
All sex crimes, victims aged 0-17	54,693	49,345	65,964
Contact initiated on line	508	615	844
Percentage of Assaults Originated on Internet	0.92%	1.24%	1.28%

“Hands-off” solicitation of children on-line:



Sources:

<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV194.pdf>
http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV268_Trends%20in%20LE%20Response%20Bulletin_4-13-12.pdf
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2009_Table_3-13
<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Sexual%20Solicitation%201%20of%204%20YISS%20Bulletins%20Feb%202014.pdf>

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What is an Adult's Environment?

Element	Targets
Parent(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother, Father • Step-Parents • Foster Parents, guardians, in loco parentis, etc.
Family Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siblings • Extended family (Uncles/Aunts, Grandparents, Cousins, etc.)
Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleagues • Supervisors • Customers
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classmates • Research associates • Study groups
Friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and Professional
Social Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church (e.g., clergy, congregation, lay staff) • Sports (e.g., coaches, team members, team members' parents) • Interest groups (e.g., dance, art, music - participants and instructors) • Membership groups (e.g., scouts, 4H, clubs - participants and sponsors)
Significant Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbors • Therapists, service providers • Others involved in adult's life

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Grooming The Adult's Environment

Grooming the environment serves three primary functions:

Function	Purpose
Affiliation	To provide entrée or continued access to a pool of potential victims.
Accept	To get environment to approve the relationship.
Assure	To generate disbelief within the environment.

The overall goals of grooming the environment are to find victims and reduce the probability of the offender being reported or the victim being believed.

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Grooming Adult Victims

Focus is on vulnerabilities. There are two primary areas of approach.

Vulnerability	Approach(es)
Emotional	Desires – provide means to valued end for victim. 1. Escape 2. Worth 3. Companionship
Physical / Cultural	1. Size/Age differences 2. Disability 3. Language 4. Economic

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Grooming Adults – BRAT

Target	Action
Vulnerabilities	Emotional, Physical/Cultural
Bond: Form a special Bond	Provide means to an end Escape Worth Companionship
Reliance: “push – “pull”	Isolate Socially Economically
Attenuate resistances	Progression Coercion
Trap – prevent disclosure or escape	Hopelessness Guilt / Fear

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A Second Word of Caution

With children we must be careful to guard against widening the net. With adults, we must be careful to guard against **assuming resilience**.

The assumed resilience of the victim - the ability to remove themselves from harm, must not be assumed. The grooming of adult victims (covered later in the next section of this paper) is designed to reduce resilience in victims and minimize their ability to remove themselves from harmful relationships. When this victim grooming is combined with environmental grooming, it can lead to a false impression within the environment that the victim is a well functioning adult with the ability to make good decisions. In fact, decisions which are forced upon the victim will often appear to be voluntary to the environment.

Unfortunately, there are no clear indicators which help us differentiate grooming from voluntary withdrawal from existing social networks. A shift in focus, priorities, and affiliation is common in situations of infatuation and 'whirl-wind romance'. However, radical, sudden and persistent departure from established affiliations should always be considered as potentially the result of grooming.

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A white paper covering this material is available for free download at www.kbsolutions.com/Grooming.pdf

Exploring Sex Offender Grooming

by

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