

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CLASS SPECIFICATION

SEX OFFENDER THERAPIST CLASS SERIES

<u>CLASS TITLE</u>	<u>POSITION CODE</u>
SEX OFFENDER THERAPIST I	40531
SEX OFFENDER THERAPIST II	40532

EFFECTIVE: 11-01-2011

SERIES DISCUSSION:

The Sex Offender Therapist series encompasses professional positions engaged in providing sex offender-specific treatment services for recipients/offenders participating in Sex Offender Treatment Programs. Individual and group sex offender therapy focuses on exhibited behaviors and applies specialized methods of treatment to shape new behaviors and modify established behaviors. To prevent relapse, a variety of therapeutic techniques are applied to decelerate maladaptive behaviors and facilitate appropriate behaviors to prepare sex offenders for functioning in a non-security environment. Therapists conduct cognitive behavioral therapy, perform assessments and evaluations, develop individual treatment plans, and monitor the application and effectiveness of therapeutic treatment services. Therapists also train program delivery staff in intervention techniques, design data collection programs, and provide pre-release and/or post-release therapy for sex offenders.

This series has been developed for positions engaged principally in work of sex offender therapy/counseling as opposed to those positions where duties, responsibilities, and requirements are broadly characteristic of other professional occupations. Other classes, for example, the Psychologist, may carry out activities encompassed by this class. However, the field of Clinical Psychology focuses on the pathology of abnormal psychology and diagnostic testing. Positions calling for the specific skills of a Psychologist are encompassed by the Psychologist series. Positions providing services associated with other professional disciplines or not requiring the unique training and experience of the Sex Offender Therapist should be allocated to other classes.

Treatment providers to juveniles, per (20 ILCS 1910.50), may be required to possess a current, valid Illinois professional license such as a physician, advance practice nurse with a psychiatric specialty, clinical psychologist, clinical social worker, clinical professional counselor, or marriage and family therapist, issued by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

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SEX OFFENDER THERAPIST I

POSITION CODE: 40531

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Under general supervision, evaluates the therapeutic needs of sex offenders and provides specialized sex offender treatment services to recipients/offenders participating in sex offender treatment programs. Develops and implements a treatment plan to meet the needs of each offender. Assesses and documents clinical progress.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. Provides specialized, sex offender-specific group and individual therapy utilizing a variety of therapeutic techniques targeting the following areas: reality structuring, cognitive behavioral approaches, cognitive restructuring, conflict resolution, crisis intervention, interpersonal skills, daily living skills, relapse prevention for incarcerated or paroled sex offenders, arousal conditioning, victim empathy, sex education, trauma resolution, communication training anger management, stress management, healthy relationship education, and problem solving.
2. Develops an individual written treatment plan designed to decelerate maladaptive behaviors and facilitate increased appropriate behaviors for each program participant based on current and past assessments or evaluations.
3. Maintains required standards of clinical documentation specific to the sex offender population, screening instruments, sex offender data collection instrument, program entrance contracts, acknowledgement of limited confidentiality and waiver, treatment plans, therapy documentation, evaluations of treatment progress and program rule violations.
4. Conducts risk assessments and testing of sex offenders utilizing clinical evaluation procedures.
5. Provides expert court testimony when requested and required.
6. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

SEX OFFENDER THERAPIST I (Continued)

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

Education and Experience

Requires possession of a master's degree in psychology, social work, counseling, marriage and family therapy or a closely related behavioral science degree from an accredited college or university, supplemented by one year of related professional experience counseling sex offenders.

Requires eligibility to be approved to conduct sex offender treatment and evaluations by the Illinois Sex Offender Management Board.

Knowledges, Skills and Abilities

Requires extensive knowledge of the theories and assumptions underlying the field of sex offender treatment and evaluation.

Requires extensive knowledge of assessment instruments and measurement techniques.

Requires working knowledge of techniques and methods used in sex offender diagnostic evaluations, psychotherapy and research.

Requires working knowledge of department rules and regulations governing the field of sex offender evaluation and treatment.

Requires working knowledge of the application of theory to social and emotional deviation.

Requires ability to plan and design individual treatment programs for assigned recipients.

Requires ability to work cooperatively and effectively with staff members, department recipients and their families.

Requires ability to design individual treatment plans and implement them correctly.

Requires ability to identify reliable individualized measures of client needs and progress.

Requires ability to assess effectiveness of treatment plans, and make needed corrections.

In addition to having a written and spoken knowledge of the English language, candidates may be required to speak and write a foreign language at a colloquial skill level in carrying out position duties in conjunction with non-English speaking individuals.

May require the ability to communicate with the visually impaired by Braille and other recognized methods and with the hearing impaired by sign language and other recognized methods.

SEX OFFENDER THERAPIST II

POSITION CODE: 40532

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Under direction, serves as designated lead worker to lower level therapists providing guidance, training, and direction; advises supervisor concerning performance evaluations of subordinate staff; maintains required standard of clinical documentation. Serves as a lead therapist providing specialized sex offender treatment services to recipients/offenders participating in sex offender treatment programs; directs behavioral treatment component of the program.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. As the designated lead worker of a unit, coordinates sex offender assessment and treatment services assisting the program administration in developing policies and supervising staff in planning, design, and implementation of the Sex Offender Treatment Program. Provides guidance, and assigns and reviews subordinates' work; advises supervisor of work performance and provides input on subordinate evaluations to supervisor.
2. Monitors and directs daily activities of the Sex Offender Treatment Program; directs assessments; directs, monitors and evaluates treatment approaches and delivery of services by assigned Sex Offender Treatment Program staff; reviews and maintains program records and production reports for unit.
3. Provides specialized, sex offender-specific group and individual therapy utilizing a variety of therapeutic techniques including reality restructuring and cognitive behavioral approaches to enable recipients/offenders to effectively reintegrate into a non-security environment.
4. Conducts risk assessments and testing of sex offenders utilizing clinical evaluation procedures.
5. Develops an individual, sex offense-specific, written treatment plan designed to decelerate maladaptive behaviors and facilitate increased appropriate behaviors for each program participant based on current and past evaluations or assessments.
6. Provides expert court testimony when requested and required.
7. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

SEX OFFENDER THERAPIST II (Continued)

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

Education and Experience

Requires possession of a master's degree in psychology, social work, counseling, marriage and family therapy or a closely related behavioral science degree from an accredited college or university.

Requires five years of related professional experience counseling sex offenders.

Requires eligibility to be approved to conduct sex offender treatment and evaluations by the Illinois Sex Offender Management Board.

Knowledges, Skills and Abilities

Requires extensive knowledge of the theories and assumptions underlying the field of sex offender treatment and evaluation.

Requires extensive knowledge of assessment instruments and measurement techniques.

Requires working knowledge of techniques and methods used in sex offender diagnostic evaluations, psychotherapy and research.

Requires working knowledge of department rules and regulations governing the field of sex offender evaluation and treatment.

Requires working knowledge of the application of theory to social and emotional deviation.

Requires working knowledge of training methods.

Requires ability to provide leadership and guidance to lower level staff.

Requires ability to plan and design individual treatment programs for assigned recipients.

Requires ability to work cooperatively and effectively with staff members, department recipients and their families.

Requires ability to design individual treatment plans and implement them correctly.

Requires ability to identify valid, reliable individualized measures of client needs and progress.

Requires ability to assess effectiveness of treatment program, make needed corrections, and prepare performance measures and reports on program effectiveness.

In addition to having a written and spoken knowledge of the English language, candidates may be required to speak and write a foreign language at a colloquial skill level in carrying out position duties in conjunction with non-English speaking individuals.

May require the ability to communicate with the visually impaired by Braille and other recognized methods and with the hearing impaired by sign language and other recognized methods.