

A POSITION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THERAPY

CURE-SORT realizes that there are people with a sex offense conviction, who do not need therapy, such as people charged with a Romeo & Juliet case. We know there are people who have been convicted who are innocent and realize they do not need therapy. There are other instances. Yet we know many struggle with serious issues that have led to conviction and do need to have therapy, which we support as a major step in their success.

We stand for the prevention of sexual abuse

While there are those who believe sexual offenders are incorrigible, we believe in treatment. Sadly, therapeutic intervention typically occurs years after a pattern of inappropriate behavior has taken root; even sadder, for sex offenders, therapy comes after arrest and in many states, only post-release.

We look forward to the day that pedophilia is treated with the same expediency, compassion and dignity as any other psychological or medical health issue. Imagine if you felt so ashamed of being an alcoholic, that you never went to an AA meeting for fear of shame, being ostracized, having your neighbors post signs in your yard, or worse. No one asks to be an alcoholic; and no one chooses their sexual attractions. One certainly can learn to manage alcoholism and stay sober. One certainly can learn to manage inappropriate sexual urges and stay sober. We at CURE-SORT understand this is an unpopular belief, and one that eludes, if not inflames, the general public. Heuristics are believed by an ignorant public that maligns and thwarts the management of this issue. We exist as a resource dedicated to protecting the public, as well as helping those in need get the help they deserve through primary prevention; that is, treating those before they act out vs. secondary prevention that is treatment after the fact.

Many child molesters, pedophiles, and other sexual offenders (rapists, child pornographers, exhibitionists, etc.) actually hate themselves for what they consider uncontrollable urges and would get help if they knew where to turn. *Fortunately, the global belief that they cannot be helped and that most reoffend is completely false.* With treatment, the recidivism rate is between 5%-13%, much lower than for non-sex crimes (US Dept of Justice; Bureau of Statistics). While there is no *cure* for an attraction to children, the behavior *can* be managed like any other undesirable habit or addiction. Again, early therapeutic intervention and community support are crucial to success. Specifically, cognitive-behavioral interventions have shown through some meta-analyses to reduce recidivism as much as 40%. (Hanson et al., 2002; Losel & Schmucker, 2005). Research has also shown that a warm, empathic, encouraging, directive and non-confrontational therapist style is associated with decreased denial and minimization and improved relationships vs. a harsh, confrontational style (Marshall, 2005; Marshall et al., 2003; Marshall et al., 2002; Marshall, Burton, & Marshall, 2013 Serran et al., 2003; Walji et al., 2013).

"People do not choose to be attracted to children or adults any more than they choose to be attracted to males or females. Not all pedophiles are child molesters (or vice versa). Child molesters are defined by their acts; pedophiles are defined by their desires. There are pedophiles and hebephiles who never act on their sexual attraction towards children. They cannot be blamed for what they feel, and they should be supported for the constant self-restraint they must exercise in order to behave ethically."

Dr. Ray Blanchard, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto; Former Head of Clinical Sexology Services in the Law and Mental Health Program of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; Served on the American Psychiatric Association's DSM-IV and on the DSM-5's Work Group on Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders.