

Addressing Staff Sexual Misconduct in Community Corrections
Audio Teleconference Broadcast July 14, 2004

Workshop Description

The goal of this workshop is to prepare community corrections professionals to address and prevent staff sexual misconduct with offenders.

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will:

- Define staff sexual misconduct with offenders;
- Understand the impact of allegations of misconduct on the profession;
- Debunk myths about sexual misconduct;
- Identify why an organization's internal culture plays such an important role in preventing misconduct;
- Hear about the legal issues associated with this topic;
- Learn the strategies to address and prevent misconduct; and
- Become knowledgeable about resources to assist in initiatives to address and prevention misconduct.

Staff sexual misconduct with offenders is about more than just "sex." Sexual misconduct includes a range of inappropriate, and in some states, illegal behaviors between employees and offenders. Sexual misconduct jeopardizes the mission of an agency, harms staff and their families, hurts already vulnerable offender victims, and undermines public and legislative support for community corrections.

How employees become involved in sexual misconduct, in many instances, is a gradual erosion of professional boundaries, often unnoticed by themselves or their supervisors. Failure of agencies to establish clear guidelines about what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate behavior between employees and offenders also contributes to misconduct. The organization's internal culture, including the "code of silence", also can prevent administrators from knowing what is really happening, and keep reports and allegations of misconduct from surfacing.

This program will provide a brief summary of the work on the National Institute of Corrections over the last few years to help community corrections administrators address sexual misconduct. The resources of NIC as well as other pro-active community corrections organizations will be identified so that administrators can start the process of making sexual misconduct a meaningful priority for their organization.