Module 3

Accountability

Synopsis

The goal of this module is to provide participants with a basic understanding of tools of accountability and how those tools relate to monitoring sex offenders in the community – including employment, drug testing, electronic monitoring, computer forensics, and sex offender registries.

Learning Objectives

After completing this module, participants should be able to:

1. Understand continuum of response to level or pattern of non-compliance.
2. Identify two types of EM and their applicability to sex offender populations.
3. Understand that tools are not quick fix, but rather provide a web of surveillance and enforcement that feeds into treatment to maintain supervision structure.
4. Identify two types of computer forensics software and their advantages and disadvantages.
5. Identify how registry can help and hinder supervision.

Participant's Materials

Participant Manual
Handouts

Facilitating the Module

LCD projector and Laptop

Handouts

Handout C1 Supervising Offender Employment: Key Steps
Handout C2 Electronic Monitoring
Handout C3 Computer Monitoring and Forensics
Handout C4 Case Study: Promoting Accountability

Resources

Tanner, J. (2005) "Rethinking Computer Management of Sex Offenders Under Community Supervision." http://www.kbsolutions.com/rcm.pdf

Time Frame

Total 1 hour

Module 3 At A Glance

Time	Description
5 minutes	Goal and Objectives
10 minutes	Creating External Structures for Offender Supervision
10 minutes	Offender Boundaries and Violations
20 minutes	Monitoring Accountability
15 minutes	Case Study

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Uggen, C. and J. Staff. (2001). "Work as a Turning Point for Criminal Offenders." *Corrections Management Quarterly*. 5(4): 1-16.

Walker, J.T., S. Madden, B.E. Vasquez, A.C. VanHouten, G. Ervin-McLarty. "The Influence of Sex Offender Registration and Notification Laws in the United States." http://www.acic.org/statistics/Research/SO_Report_Final.pdf#search=%22Walker%2C%20J.T.%20AND%20sex%20offender%20registration%22

Offender Accountability

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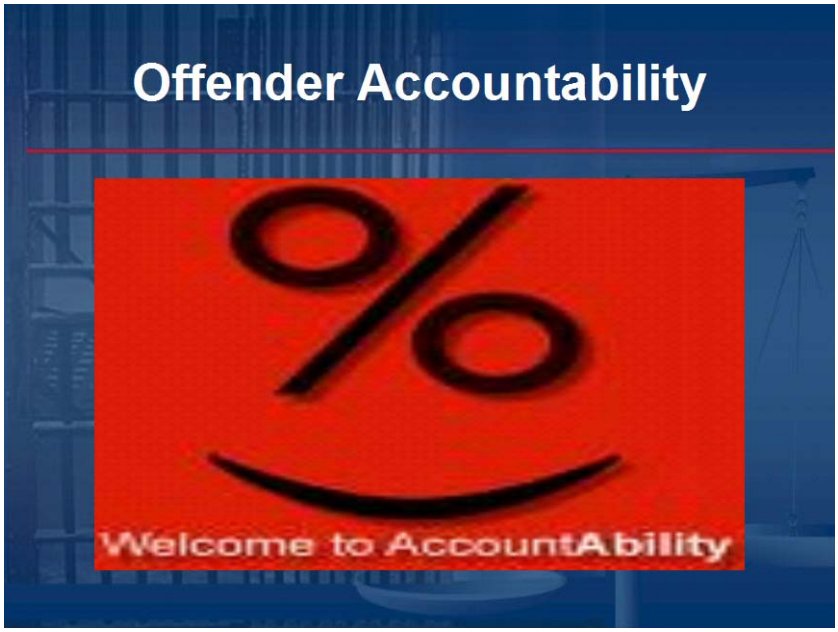

This module will discuss how accountability tools such as employment, drug testing, electronic monitoring, computer forensics, and registries, can be used to create a web of surveillance for sex offender management.

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Learning Objectives

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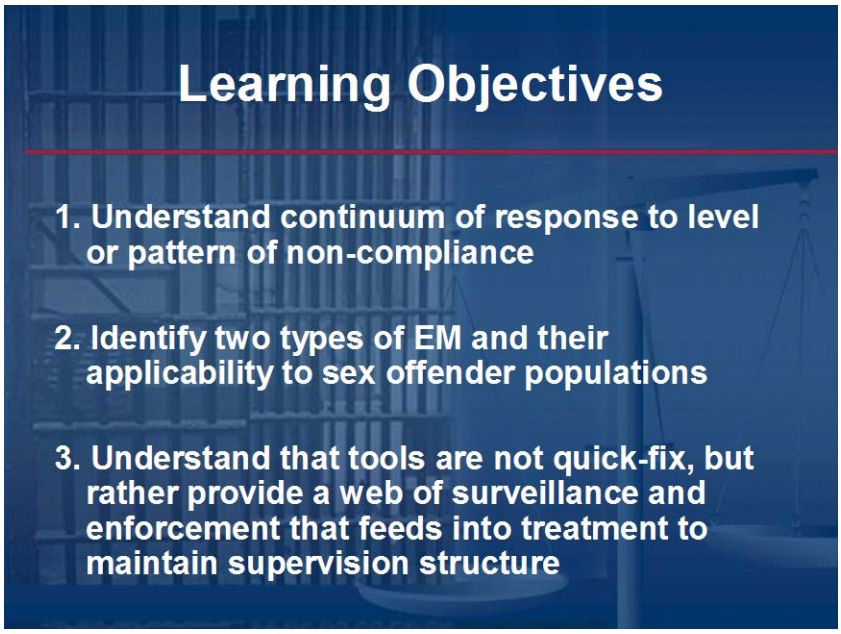

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Learning Objectives (cont'd)

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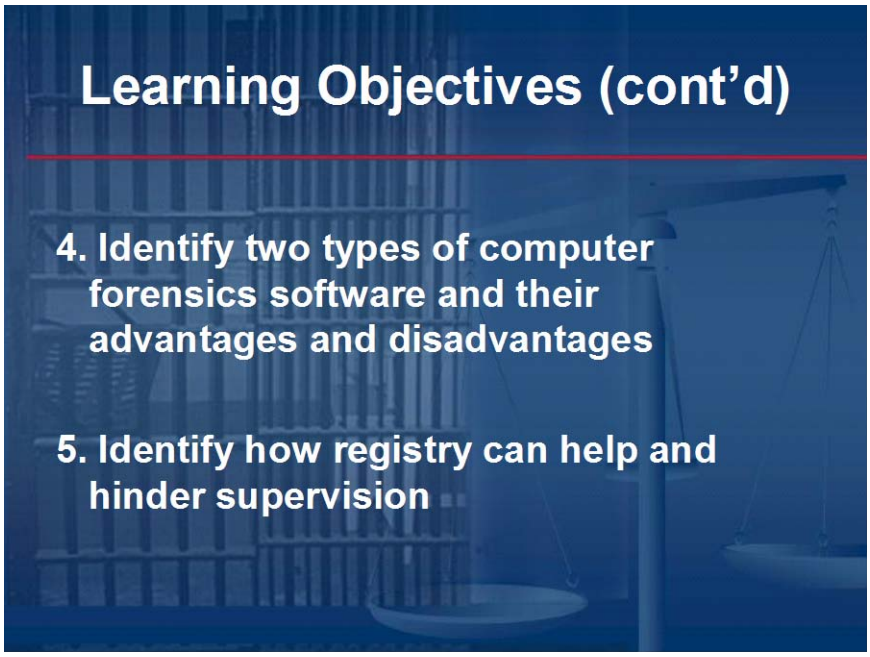

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Creating External Structures for Offender Supervision

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Employment is both a way to structure an offender's time in the community (as another tool of supervision) and a tool to help invest an offender in his/her own normal behaviors.

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Supervising Offender Employment

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See Handout C1 (Supervising Offender Employment: Key Steps) for a checklist of keys to employment supervision.

Some questions that a supervising officer should ask about potential employment are: (1) whether or not the location of the job would put the offender at risk of reoffending – for example, if the location of the job is near a playground; (2) whether or not the offender would have access to the internet, cameras, etc. that might increase the risk of reoffending; and (3) whether or not there is enough supervision on the job that would allow the employer to note risky behaviors or situations – for example, if the offender is required to travel in the community, whether or not there would be adequate supervision to ensure community safety.

NOTES

Offender Boundaries and Violations:

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The consequences of unclear conditions that are not explicitly illuminated and enforced can have dire consequences to past victims and the community at large.

NOTES

Continuum of Response

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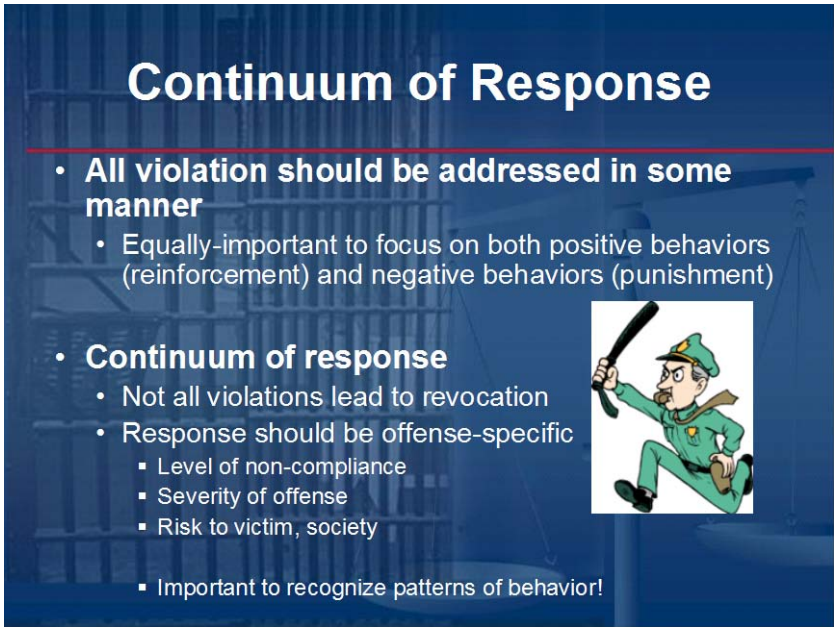

All violations of conditions by sex offenders should be addressed in some manner. But it is also as important to hold an offender accountable for pro-social behavior through positive reinforcement as it is to hold the offender accountable for violations via sanctions.

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Continuum of Response (cont'd)

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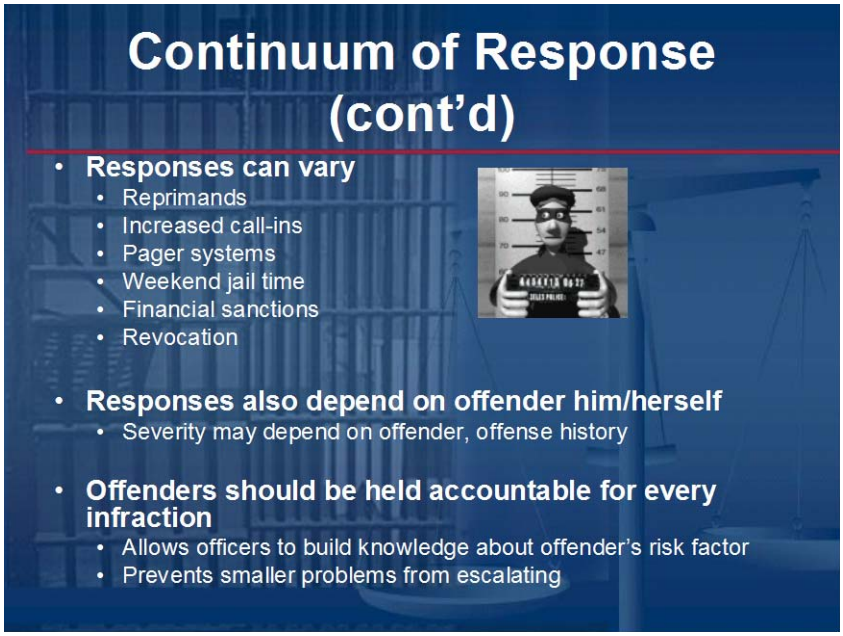

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Monitoring Accountability

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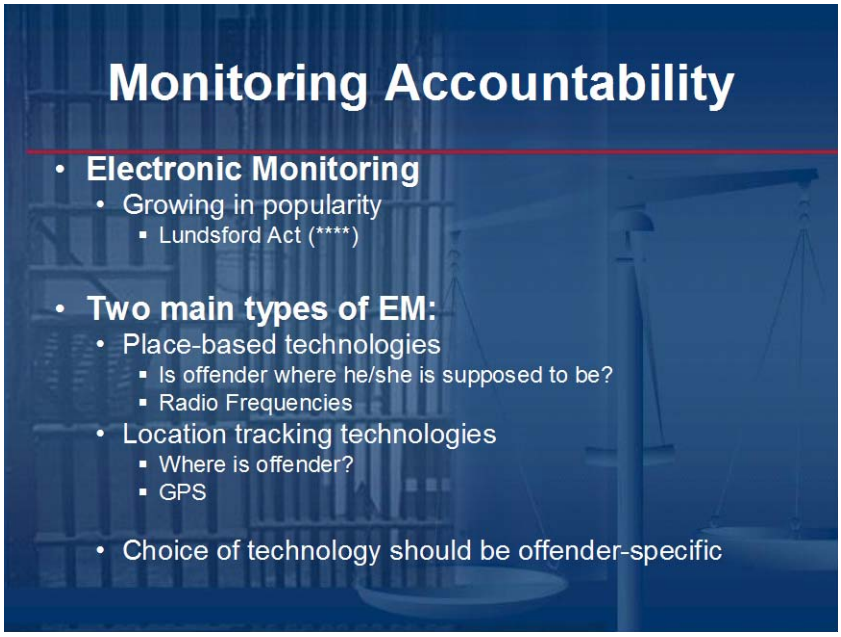

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Electronic Monitoring

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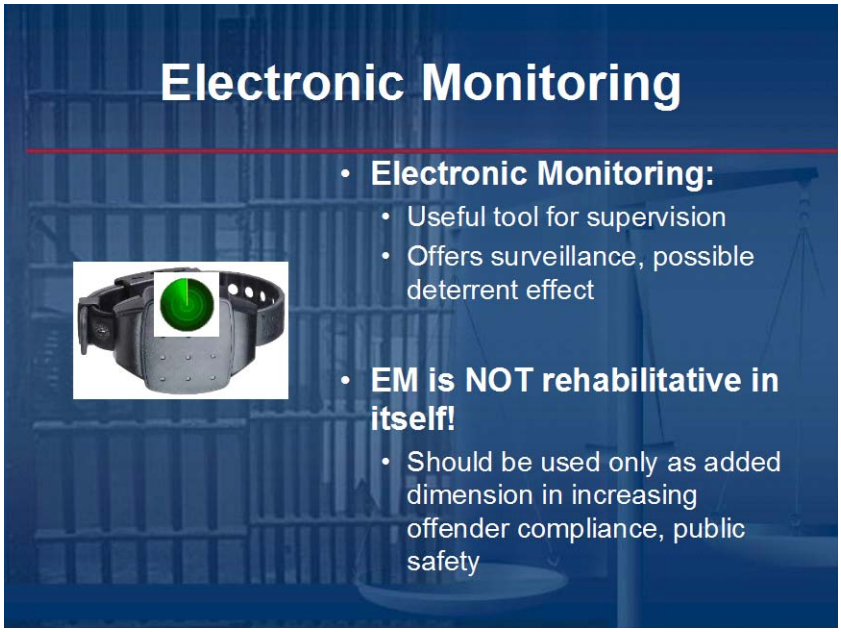

Participants should turn to Handout C2 (Electronic Monitoring). This is an example of the guidelines for placing offenders on EM in Iowa.

It is important to understand that while electronic monitoring can used as tool of supervision, these technologies are not a panacea.

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Drug Testing

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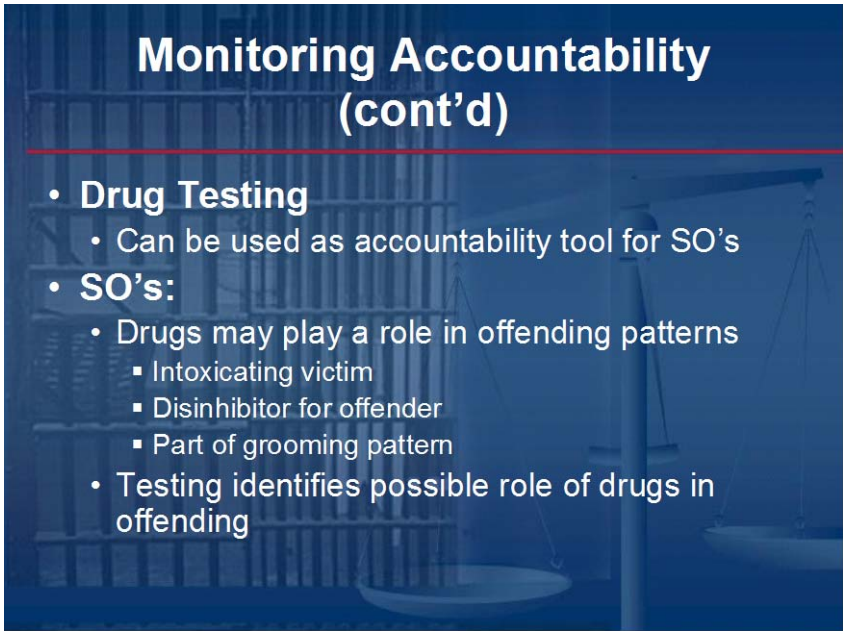

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Computer Forensics

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Participants should turn to Handout C3 (Computer Monitoring and Forensics) for some examples of different types of software available.

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Computer Forensics

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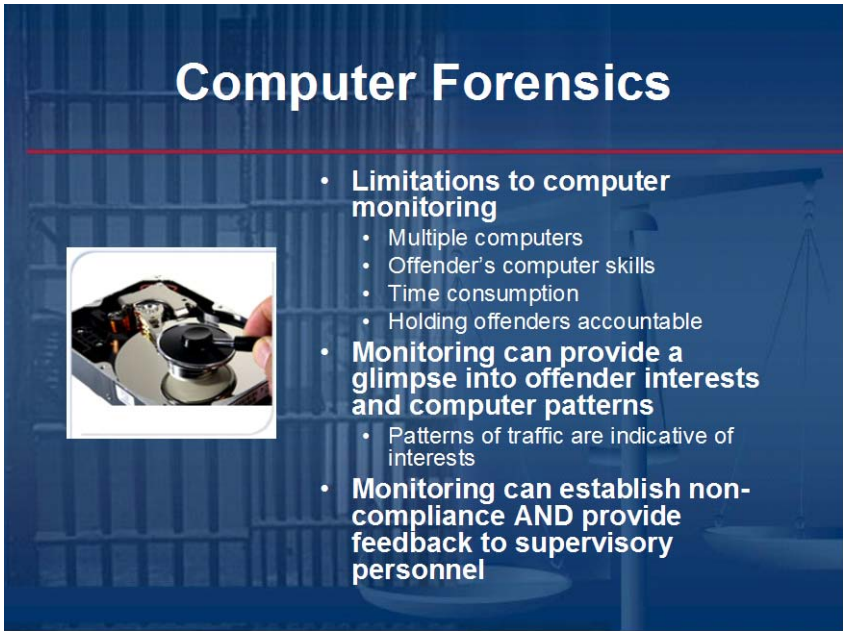

While the limitations of computer forensics should be considered, it can be an essential tool of accountability for managing some sex offenders and will most certainly become increasingly so as technology develops.

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Sex Offender Registries

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Sex Offender Registries

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As a tool used specifically for supervision and enforcement of offenders in the community, registries can be a useful and effective tool for use in informing and expanding an offender's containment triangle.

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Registries/Containment Triangle

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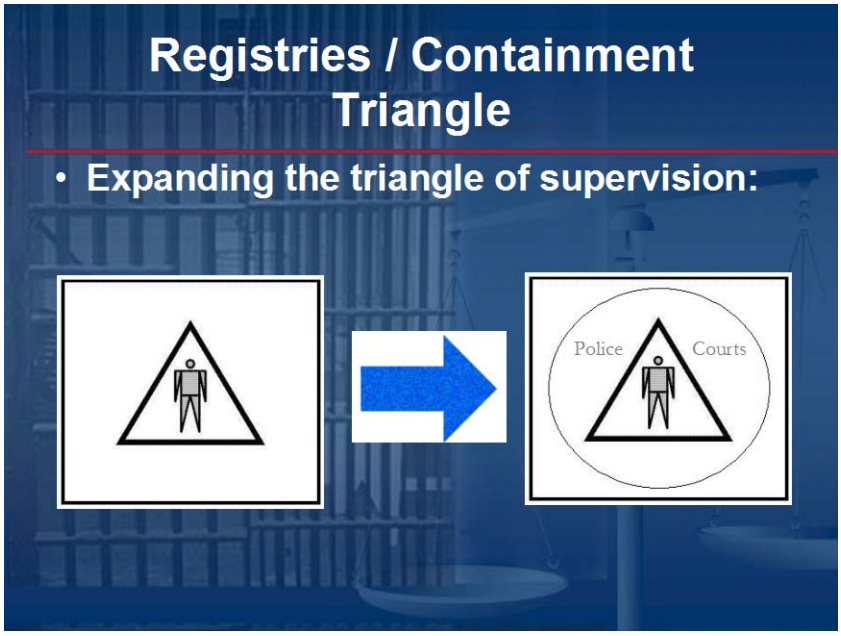

Take a look at our triangle here; if we add this circle around the containment triangle, not only does it provide for informal involvement and communication with other systemic agencies, but it also provides another dimension of professional supervision for offenders.

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Sex Offender Registries (cont'd)

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Sex offender registries should be seen as supervisory tools designed specifically towards offender containment by professional actors.

NOTES

Sex Offender Registries (cont'd)

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To ensure the effectiveness of offender registries as tools of supervision, the registry should be used in a consistent and complete fashion. Probation/parole professionals should be responsible for regular home contacts to ensure accurate reporting, and should consider this a standard part of sex offender supervision.

NOTES

Sex Offender Registries: Expanding Supervision

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Because they are able bridge the interagency "gap" between criminal justice system entities, sex offender registries may be seen as a tool for promoting the flow of information between probation/parole professionals and enforcement agencies.

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