



County of San Diego

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To our Readers and Residents of San Diego County:

Over the past 15 years, our community has become increasingly aware of the prevalence of sexual abuse locally and nation-wide. Often the public portrays this type of offender as a stranger who stalks children from schools and parks. Research data, however, reminds us that the perpetrator is usually someone known to the victim. Frequently, the perpetrator is a close family member, relative or friend who takes advantage of their position of trust. As a community, we sometimes fail to recognize that youth are not only the victims in these cases but may also represent a group of perpetrators. We refer to these juvenile offenders as "sexually abusive youth." The San Diego County Probations Department's goal is to hold these youth accountable and decrease their risk of re-offending by providing an opportunity for rehabilitation. The Probation Department endorses the standards presented in this document, which constitute an effort to meet the challenges posed by this target population.

The Supervision Standards for Sexually Abusive Youth in San Diego were generated by a multi-agency collaborative effort. These agencies joined together as a task force under an Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Implementation Grant beginning in 2001. The Sex Offender Management Council (SOMC) coordinates this comprehensive plan to enhance sex offender management, and focuses on concern for community safety. This document outlines that concern in the form of protocols for monitoring sexually abusive juveniles. It is also consistent with the Mission Statement of the San Diego County Probation Department and our County's Strategic Initiatives. These Initiatives highlight the County's commitment to address needs in the areas of "kids, the environment, and safe and livable communities." The Probation Department strives to serve and protect the public, prevent further trauma to victims, and redirect offenders to a more productive lifestyle. The standards you are about to read provide the guidelines and model to effectively implement these objectives.

Sincerely,

LESLEY MCCLELLAND
DEPUTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER
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