

**Deaf Client, Hearing Therapist:
The Challenge of Treating the Deaf Sex Offender Population**

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Research continues to produce evidenced based guidelines for the effective assessment and treatment of sex offenders. To date, however, there is a paucity of research to guide clinicians in the assessment and treatment of the deaf sex offender population. In light of this, clinicians are often left to struggle case by case with little guidance from empirical literature and research. Although there are similarities between the hearing and deaf sex offender population, there are also several distinct differences. Following the current best practice on intervention with sex offenders, which includes the principles of risk, need, responsivity and professional integrity, this workshop will focus on recommendations for providing services to deaf sex offenders in a hearing world. Beginning with a summary of available literature on the deaf sex offender population, this workshop will then:

- Introduce cultural competence from a Deaf perspective and identify cultural and social factors that may impact treatment
- Outline guidelines for improving confidentiality between a hearing therapist, interpreter and deaf offender
- Provide suggestions for the adaptation of a standard cognitive behavioral therapy program in order to respond to the needs of the deaf offender
- Describe techniques for enhancing the therapeutic alliance between a deaf client and hearing therapist
- Outline limitations the forensic setting may generate in this treatment process and strategies for overcoming these obstacles

Case illustrations will be provided. A brief review of research conducted on the deaf sex offender population in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections will also be discussed.