

**A Unique and Collaborative Approach to Managing High Risk Sex Offenders in
New York**

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On April 13, 2007, New York State enacted its civil commitment statute and created the Office of Sex Offender Management which is charged with coordinating and supporting initiatives amongst agencies involved in sex offender management.

New York is the only state with a civil commitment statute that allows for either inpatient commitment in a secure treatment facility or intensive treatment and supervision in the community for high risk sex offenders completing their sentence. Individuals convicted of certain sex offenses and nearing release from custody of the Department of Correctional Services, Division of Prison, Parole, the Office of Mental Health or the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities are rigorously reviewed to assess whether there is a mental abnormality that would make it likely for the offender to reoffend sexually once released into the community. The provision of Strict and Intensive Supervision and Treatment (SIST) requires extensive cooperation and coordination between agencies responsible for the offender's management. These agencies include the Division of Parole, Office of Mental Health and Office of the Attorney General. Topics discussed will include:

- The collaborative case management-like process that takes place each time a person is considered for SIST,
- The teamwork that is employed once the person is actually in the community on SIST.
- Treatment and supervision conditions required
- Legal challenges and issues.
- Case examples and lessons learned to date
- What happens when a violation of conditions occurs

Participants will have a better understanding of New York's Civil Commitment statute, its unique aspects and the collaborative efforts required for its successful implementation. This workshop will also provide an overview of the achievements of the Office of Sex Offender Management with respect to new and innovative ways to coordinate efforts amongst agencies, including training, interagency databases, statistics and research.