

Suggested Practices to Address Abuse Prevention by Offenders Known to Friend's Meeting (DRAFT) 12.17.07

Summarized from Rochester Meeting Minute (1995) and *A Time to Heal* by Debra Haffner, and based on our own experience.

Responsibilities of the Offender

1. Offenders are directed to contact the clerk, who will inform Ministry and Oversight and the Children's Safety Oversight Committee. (If Meeting is informed by law enforcement, the clerk will alert the CSOC and M&O.) M&O or some members of M&O will meet with the offender to provide a plan for disclosure and to develop a Support Committee who will to assist in preparing for self-disclosure, and to create strategies to prevent relapse.
2. The offender will inform the Support Committee of his/her history, progress toward recovery, commitment to Quaker principles, and commitment to positive participation in the local Quaker community.
3. The offender must be in treatment, as recommended by a provider, and provide a release in order for the therapist to provide information to the CSOC that the offender is or is not participating in treatment. This is a requirement for participation in Meeting (*A Time to Heal*).
4. The offender will sign a *standardized limited access agreement*, provided by the CSOC, with individualized addenda as needed, and designed to eliminate or minimize contact with young people.
5. The offender will agree to participate fully with a Support Committee, as described below, and to respond to the query, "what is your recovery plan and how can we support it?" This could include suggesting names for Committee members that the offender is comfortable working with, though the final list of members would be determined by M&O

Responsibilities of the Support Committee

DRAFT Role Description for Support Committee for Sex Offenders

Some parts to take place over time, continuously deepening; others more urgent.

1. To get to know the offender, his/her interests and accomplishments, spiritual direction and questions, his needs as he perceives them, his comfort level in Meeting, perhaps to worship or do worship sharing together.
2. To initiate a Clearness Committee process when requested by the offender, or by committee members. (Rochester minute)

3. To provide support for the offender as requested, in areas such as socializing within meeting, job search contacts.
4. To be aware of level of the offender's participation in treatment.
5. To meet regularly with the offender—initially 1 time per month, later on a regular schedule as determined by the committee.
6. To serve as the liaison group for communication between the offender and the Community, to communicate with M&O about any concerns from the offender or about him/her and to address any concerns about the safety of actions or behaviors of offender that are brought to attention by meeting attenders (Rochester minute) along with bringing these concerns to M&O and the CSOC.
7. To support the offender in responding when questions come up that aren't answered by the informational document, and/or to help with a process for answering questions.
8. To provide individual support for the offender and enlist meeting support as needed if issues of societal injustice arise.
9. To develop a written informational document that has a record of the story according to the offender of what happened when he/she molested children, time spent incarcerated and in treatment, and to research the police and internet versions of those events. This record might contain contradictory statements and would be acknowledged as a record of varied truths, rather than a complete statement of fact. Sources of information would be noted. The record would be kept by the committee and shared with the CSOC and M&O and others needing access as determined by any of the three committees. *The usefulness and appropriateness of this procedure will be reviewed after one year (Jan 2009?).*

Responsibilities of the Children's Safety Oversight Committee when an Offender is Known to the Meeting (More general description of this committee to be developed.)

1. To determine mechanisms for prompt yet compassionate disclosure to the meeting and to oversee disclosure, including informing parents and attenders with children as they newly arrive in meeting.
2. To formulate a limited access agreement to be signed by the offender.
3. To work with the Support Committee to address any concerns about the safety of actions or behaviors of the offender that are brought to attention by meeting attenders (Rochester Minute).

Responsibilities of the Meeting as a whole, or other committees.

M&O

1. To form and oversee the Support Committee for an offender.
2. To support and arrange prompt initial disclosure to the meeting.
3. To provide education for meeting members and appropriate support for survivors as requested.
4. Maintain an information and referral resource for the offender and survivors.
5. To assure accurate and clear communication between offender, Support Committee, CSOC and meeting.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee and entire meeting.

1. To provide advocacy for offenders who may experience societal injustice (Rochester Minute).