



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 20??

I20 Pitfalls in Sex Offender Commitment Hearings

Fabian M. Saleh, MD, University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry, 55 Lake Avenue, Worcester, MA 01604*

Upon completion of these presentations, participants will learn about sexual offenders, sexual dangerous person proceedings, and the management and treatment of sexual offenders.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by discussing etiological factors associated with sexually offending behavior; reviewing various profiles associated with rape behavior; discussing the psychiatric evaluation of a rapist in sex offender commitment proceedings; and discussing the appropriate and inappropriate use of psychiatric diagnoses and actuarial instruments in commitment hearings.

Rapists remain the subject of media attention and controversy. With the adoption of sex offender commitment statutes in many states, there is a pressing need to properly evaluate and assess these individuals. Such evaluations require an assessment of the individual's diagnosis and prognosis as well as an assessment of the individual's risk for future sexual offending behavior.

A review of recent literature discussing the phenomenology and etiology of sexual offending behavior, the common use and misuse of psychiatric diagnoses in sex offender commitment hearings (e.g., Para- philia Not Otherwise Specified), and the treatment options for sex of- fenders will be presented.

Sex Offenders, Treatment, Civil Commitment