

# Supporting Successful Reentry: Working with People with a Sex Offense

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GOD OUR  
PROVIDER

Phil 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

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IF YOU SEE ME  
*talking*  
TO MYSELF  
**DO NOT  
DISTURB**  
I'M HAVING A  
STAFF MEETING



# About me...

- Paramedic in Kansas City
- Worked in Healthcare for over 35 years
- Worked with people in poverty for over 25 years
- Prison Release Specialist at City Union Mission
- Pastor a church with over 90% justice-involved (including sex offenders)
- Pending Book – From the Cell House to the Church House: Reentry Handbook for Church Leaders.

# Our Conversation today:

1. What Barriers do RSOs face after release?
2. Examine Myths that create Obstacles.
3. How can Reentry Programs help RSOs returning to the community?

# Let's Play the Game of Life

1 GAME OF LIFE	 TRAVEL	2 GET DEPORTED	3 SUCCESS	4 CHEAT OTHERS	5  BE HONORED	6 UN-EMPLOYED	7 GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL
8 BE HONEST	9 BIG DEBTS	10 WEALTHY 	11 HATE WHERE YOU LIVE	12 CHANGE THE WORLD	13 GO TO PRISON	14 BE CREATIVE	15 ANGRY 
16 SAD OLD AGE	17 WORK HARD	18 GET REJECTED	19  BRAVE	20 DROP OUT	21 LOVE OTHERS	22 BE IMPULSIVE	23  PERSIST
24  HAPPINESS	25 HATE YOUR JOB	26 LEAD OTHERS	27  GAMBLE	28 BIG BUSINESS	29 CRIMINAL	30  INFLUENCE	31 TAKE FROM OTHERS
32 BECOME LAZY	33 FAME 	34 BE POOR	35 AMBITION	36 STEAL	37 LEARN	38 FACE RUIN	39 HELP OTHERS
40  MARRIED	41 EMBEZZLE MONEY	42 FIGHT FOR PEACE	43 BECOME A SCROOGE	44 WISDOM	45  ADDICTED	46 BE CAREFUL	47 EXPELLED
48 BE A HERMIT	49 EXPERIENCE BEAUTY	50 LIE COMPULSIVELY	51  ADVENTURE	52 GET FIRED	53 HAPPY OLD AGE	54 YOU STINK	55 SEEK TRUTH
56 COLLEGE	57 BE MEAN	58 GO INTO POLITICS	59 BE GRUMPY	60 LOVE 	61 LIVE ALONE	62 HAVE FUN	63 FAIL SCHOOL



How Many of the JIs we work with Deal with Bad Decisions?

**Let's start Creating the  
Story of Your Life**

STORY OF LIFE	1  TRAVEL	2 GET DEPORTED	3 SUCCESS	4 CHEAT OTHERS	5  BE HONORED	6 UN-EMPLOYED	7 GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL
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# RSO Types

## ● Pedophilic (Preferential) Offenders.

- These individuals have a persistent, diagnosable sexual attraction to prepubescent children.
- They tend to have a higher number of victims and are more likely to reoffend without intervention or supervision.

## ● Situational Offenders

- These individuals do not have a primary sexual attraction to children but offend under specific circumstances.
- They typically have fewer victims and may not reoffend if underlying issues are addressed.



# Barriers to Reentry for Sex Offenders

## Legal Barriers:

- **Registration and Notification.**  
Must register: address, phone, social media, email, work address...
- **Residency Restrictions.**  
RSOs cannot live within 1,000 ft. of a school. Often 500 ft from a park.

# Barriers to Reentry for Sex Offenders

## Legal Barriers:

- **Employment Restrictions.**

- 1) Will the PO approve the job?

- a. Child Porn charges will often mean no computer or internet access.

- b. Often, they will need extra time off.

- c. Cannot work evenings on Oct. 31st.

# Barriers to Reentry for Sex Offenders

## Legal Barriers:

- **Employment Restrictions.**

- 1) Will the PO approve the job?
- 2) Will the employer hire them?
- 3) Will other employees create a hostile work environment?

# Barriers to Reentry for Sex Offenders

## Legal Barriers:

- **Financial Obstacles.**

- 1) Intervention Fees.

- 2) Back Child Support.

- 3) Court Cost.

- 4) Restitution and Repayment for incarceration.

- 5) Sex Offender Treatment

- 6) Polygraph fees.

# Barriers to Reentry for Sex Offenders

Legal Barriers:

- **Collateral Consequences.**

An excellent resource for state and federal collateral consequences is the National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction (NICCC).

<https://niccc.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/>

# Barriers to Reentry for Sex Offenders

Legal Barriers:

- **Collateral Consequences.**

According to the NICCC, Missouri has **a total of 645 consequences**. When you add Federal collateral consequences to the Missouri list, the number more than doubles to **1,661** consequences.

# Barriers to Reentry for Sex Offenders

Social and Emotional Barriers:

- **Stigma and Isolation.**

Community members often ostracize RSOs, leading to social isolation.

# Barriers to Reentry for Sex Offenders

## Social and Emotional Barriers:

- **Mental Health.**

Anxiety (especially social anxiety in crowded spaces), depression, and trauma related to incarceration and community rejection are common and can interfere with successful reentry.

# Barriers to Reentry for Sex Offenders

## Social and Emotional Barriers:

- **Mental Health.**
  - 1) Constant Fear of Harm.
  - 2) Institutionalization.
  - 3) General Strain Theory.
  - 4) PTSD.

# Barriers to Reentry for Sex Offenders

## Social and Emotional Barriers:

- **Mental Health.**

A. Consider how these influence their well-being overall?

B. Think about where they can work if they are struggling with MH, especially in areas like social anxiety.

C. Think about the office environment.

# Barriers to Reentry for Sex Offenders

## Social and Emotional Barriers:

- **Family Strain.**

Many families are reluctant or afraid to reconnect with SOs, compounding their isolation.

Furthermore, if the family has children in the home, they will not be allowed contact, even if they are not the victims.

## Myths, Stereotypes, and Stigma

**Myth:** “Once a sex offender, always a sex offender.”

**Myth:** “Strangers pose the greatest threat.”

**Myth:** “Treatment doesn’t work.”

**Stereotype:** “SOs are all the same.”

# The Role of Reentry Programs

- ✓ Case Management.
- ✓ Housing Assistance.
- ✓ Employment Services.
- ✓ Community Accountability.
- ✓ Mental Health and Treatment.

## Trauma-Informed Approach

- 1) Many RSOs have unresolved trauma and Multiple ACEs.
- 2) Prison for RSOs is extremely traumatic.
- 3) SUDs and RSO go hand-in-hand, alongside self-treatment for their unresolved trauma.

## Trauma-Informed Approach

- 4) Self-sabotage and imposter syndrome are high because of their situation and shame.
- 5) Think about “triggers” that might reactivate past trauma.

Q & A

**Please Feel Free to  
Take any of the  
Handouts**

