CASOMB FAQ’s

Q: How often is an offender in the Containment Model required to do a polygraph exam?

A: The standards governing polygraph exams under the Containment Model were adopted by the CA Sex Offender Management Board and can be found at <http://www.casomb.org/docs/Polygraph_Standards_FINAL.PDF>

. Although the statutes do not specify how often polygraph exams must be done, the standards indicate that a maintenance polygraph should be done every 12 months, at a minimum. Maintenance polygraph exams should start only after the offender has been in the program for several months, and can be done up to 12 months after beginning treatment. Whether a sexual history polygraph or an instant offense polygraph is done depends on the policy and preference of the treatment provider and supervising officer, working together as the Containment team.

Q: Who has to be certified?

A: All therapists and programs providing treatment services to sex offenders who are required to register under PC 290 and are on probation or parole.

Q: Do I have to be certified as both an individual and as part of a certified program?

A: The short answer is yes. To be fully certified to do sex offender treatment with this population you must have individual certification as well as being part of a certified program. If you are in private practice, you may certify yourself as a certified program and attest that you meet all program requirements of a certified program.

Q: Do I have to pay to be certified as an individual and as a program?

A: Yes, the cost of individual certification is $180.00. Program certification depends on the number of sex offender clients you have: 1‐10 clients = $90.00; 11‐40 clients = $120.00; 41 or more clients = $180.00.

Q: Are juvenile sex offenders required to be in certified treatment programs?

A: Juveniles who are required to register under Penal Code section 290.008 are required to be in a certified treatment program if released on parole from Division of Juvenile Justice at CDCR prior to age 18. That said, there are not many juveniles who have been released from CDCR/DJJ on a registrable offense before they turn 18, but it is possible. Most persons on parole from a juvenile adjudication will be in a certified treatment program as an adult.

Q: Do I have to be certified if I am only working with juvenile sex offenders?

A: If you are providing treatment to registered sex offenders who are on parole for a sex offense for which they were committed to the CDCR/Division of Juvenile Justice as juveniles, you must be certified.

Q: I would like to work with low risk offenders who are court ordered to do treatment, as part of a program that accepts these offenders. Do I need to be certified?

A: You must meet the CASOMB certification requirements and have been certified at one of the three levels in order to provide treatment to registered sex offenders on probation or parole.

Q: Do registered sex offenders in institutional settings have to be in certified treatment programs?

A: The statutes require using a certified program and provider for sex offenders on formal supervised probation or on parole. If registrants who are incarcerated are being actively supervised by probation or parole officers, they are required to be in a certified treatment program. "Formal" supervision really means active supervision, i.e., the person is seen by the supervising officer, versus unsupervised supervision, meaning the person is not required to see a probation or parole officer.

Q: Whose responsibility is it to see that a registrant is in a certified treatment program?

A: It is probation and parole's responsibility to make sure an eligible person is in a certified program.

Q: Does CASOMB have a list of certified polygraph examiners?

A: We do not currently have a list of polygraph examiners who attest that they are APA compliant, as required by CASOMB (see APA standards for polygraph certification on the www.casomb.org web site). There is a list of examiners who belong to the California Polygraph Assn. (CAPE), some of whom may attest that they meet the APA requirements. View the CAPE examiner list at http://www.californiapolygraph.com/members/roster.htm. However, a polygraph examiner does not have to be a member of CAPE to be compliant with the APA standards. It is up to the supervising officer and/or program to make sure the polygrapher attests that he adheres to APA standards.

Q: As a certified treatment provider, do I have to be trained in the SARATSO approved risk assessment instruments?

A: You, or someone in your program, must be trained to score the STABLE/ACUTE and the LS/CMI. You do not need to be trained to score the Static‐99R, since scoring that tool is the responsibility of probation and parole staff, although it is helpful for treatment providers to be familiar with the Static-99R.

Q: How will a probationer/parolee or a probation/parole department know that I am certified to perform sex offender treatment services?

A: CASOMB will post a list of certified sex offender management programs online, by ZIP Code area. An individual provider may also be a program and will be included on the program list as long as he or she has been CASOMB-approved as a certified sex offender management program.

Q: How do treatment providers get confidential records needed to score the new risk assessment instruments?

A: The supervising officer must get the necessary documents to the treatment provider, and even confidential documents which are CORI or have victims’ names may be given to providers, notwithstanding any other law, pursuant to Penal Code section 290.07. Of course such records should be kept confidential. See <http://www.saratso.org/scoreReporting.htm> (types of documents and methods of sharing documents with treatment provider).

Q: When should the STABLE-2007 be scored? Can we put the score in the presentencing report along with the score on the Static-99R?

A: The treatment provider should score the STABLE-2007 90-120 days after the offender begins the treatment program. This allows time for the provider to get to know the person and gain some trust, which will result in a more accurate dynamic risk score. The STABLE-2007 is not intended to be scored presentencing.

Q: I have submitted my application and have changed my mind. Is my money refundable?

A: You may cancel your application but your fees will not be refunded. Application fees are considered final. There will be no refunds.