

5-27-14

Good morning, I wanted to respond to the article in the Tuesday Denver Post regarding "Sex offender," but no conviction. I haven't corresponded with you in a while, but wanted to on this one, as this has been a long-standing problem, and one that puts this particular group of guys at great risk of going back to prison, and of having the sexual offense aura hang over them for the rest of their lives. While not corresponding with you (which I mostly did in relation to Greig Veeder who has exited the picture for the most part), I have corresponded a lot with Vince Carroll and Alecia Caldwell, as well as David Olinger.

So called S-code guys are, according to the CDOC, given some kind of notification while they are in prison, that they have been identified as someone who will be treated as a person with a sexual offense when they get out of prison - i.e. they will have to be in treatment, will not be able to see their children (and perhaps not their wives or girlfriends), and will have to live with all of the housing and job impediments that those with sexual offenses have to live with on an ongoing basis.

As I have worked with these guys, my concern has always been that the CDOC may not give them significant information inside of CDOC in order for them to be fully prepared to live as a person with a sexual offense when they get out. They will not get treatment inside, as they are determinately sentenced, and there are at present not enough resources (space, time or therapists) to provide them treatment while they are in prison. While they may be given some kind of notification (a piece of paper - have never been able to find out exactly what kind of notification they are given even though I have asked many times), it apparently is not enough so that they are really prepared to live as a person with a sex offense when they get out.

I get a ton of calls from guys that are in total shock when they get out and find that not only must they go to sex offense specific treatment and say that they indeed did commit a sexual offense, but that they also must abide by all of the other restrictions placed on people who have actually been convicted of a sexual offense. They are so angry that it makes participating in treatment and admitting to something they say they did not do impossible.

There was a fellow I was working with through a group called Step-up Incorporated whose court document said that he would NOT have to register as a sex offender, and that he would NOT have to take sex offender treatment. When I sat and talked with parole leadership re: this, because he was indeed forced to register and take sex offender treatment, they strongly stood by classifying him S4 because of "factual basis". His offense was assault, not sexual assault. He was let out of CDOC a couple of times, and because he denied the sexual offense when he got to treatment, he was quickly terminated from treatment and sent back to CDOC.

The Standards and Guidelines of the Sex Offender Management Board and this particular policy of the CDOC almost become "Godlike" in that I think sometimes these folks see themselves as taking the place of God in terms of trying to ensure the public's safety. I say this with sadness, as I work closely with CDOC and parole to assist these folks in being successful and getting on with healthy lives. I do not want to offend any of those folks in parole and at CDOC with whom I work daily. Yet I do believe that in some ways "public safety" is a misnomer, and that no

organization committed to public safety can in any way "guarantee" that people will not reoffend sexually or any other way. They have their job to do, but the cops will never catch the Jessica Ridgeway type offenders before these rare and extremely sad events happen. All they can do is clean up afterwards.

It brings us back to the fact that, according to the groups that specifically support those who have been victimized, 80% of people who commit sexual offenses are never caught and convicted. They are cops, newspapermen, government officials, school teachers, our neighbors etc. We are expending millions on the 20% that have been caught and convicted, no matter what they did, while we are not educating and "policing" the 80% that are harder to educate and police. Why doesn't the public understand this? Perhaps because they don't want to admit that they are part of the 80%!

Sadly, these S4 guys, and those with sexual offense convictions get the brunt of the consequences, no matter what they did or did not do, as they are an easy target for the public. It makes folks feel safe, although they obviously are not. The SOMB and the CDOC, as well as the Parole Board, have stepped a bit beyond their roles to assume that Godlike position of "ensuring public safety" and "no more victims" which indeed are things they cannot assure.

I will be putting this response on my webpage and linking it to your article. Feel free to call with questions or concerns.

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Micah 7:8 "Though I have fallen, I will rise"