

Using the ROSAC to Conduct “Sexual Abuser Risk of Sexual Abuse to Children Assessments”

National Sexual Assault Conference
September 2-4, 2015 Los Angeles, CA

Robert McGrath
McGrath Psychological Services, P.C.
www.robertmcgrath.us

Maia Christopher
Executive Director
ATSA

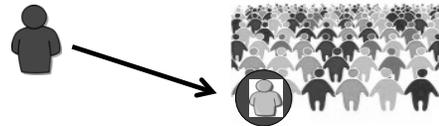
Workshop Outline

1. What is the ROSAC?
2. What is evidence-based risk assessment?
3. How do I code the ROSAC?
4. How do I apply the ROSAC to cases?

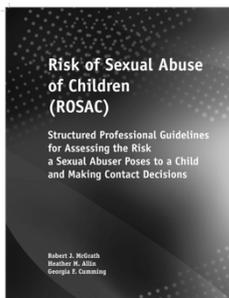
1. What is the ROSAC?

What is the ROSAC? “Risk of Sexual Abuse of Children”

A 30-item Structured Professional Guide for assessing an adult male sexual abuser’s risk to sexually abuse a specific child and under what circumstances, if any, the abuser might safely be allowed contact with the child.



What is the ROSAC?



Published by
Safer Society Press,
Brandon, Vermont
www.saferociety.org
802-247-3132

Free downloadable
worksheets and
coding sheets
available at
www.robertmcgrath.us

What are definitions of key terms?

- **Child at Risk.** A child age 17 or younger whom a responsible party believes may be at risk to be sexually abused by an sexual abuser.
- **Sexual Abuser.** A person who has committed a sexually abusive act, which typically has resulted in a criminal conviction or CPS substantiation.
- **Contact.** Supervised and unsupervised contact between a sexual abuser and child at risk, either while residing together or not, and including face-to-face, verbal, and correspondence contact.

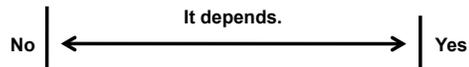
What are some situations in which the ROSAC can be used?

- A Child Protective Services (CPS) agency is investigating a report that an individual who had previously been substantiated for sexually abusing a child is now living with a family that has children.
- A probation officer must determine whether to grant a sex offender's request to live in a home with children.
- A team of professionals are collaborating to determine whether to reunite a family in which the father sexually abused one of his children.

What are some responses to the idea of conducting "risk of sexual abuse to children" assessment?

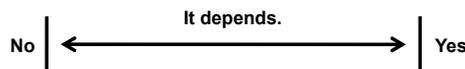
"Sex offenders should never ever have any contact whatsoever with children."

"I am not going to prevent a sex offender from being with his children for something he might do in the future."



What beliefs drive thinking at the two ends of this continuum?

No Never allow contact.	Yes. Allow contact.



What risks are weighed when conducting ROSAC assessments?



- harm of sexual abuse,
- harm of separating a child from adults to whom the child may be attached, and
- harm of infringing on the rights of individuals to live their lives without undo government interference.

Who can use the ROSAC?

The ROSAC can be scored and used by:

- child protective services (CPS) professionals,
- probation and parole officers,
- mental health providers, and
- victim advocates.

Ideally, a collaborative team of professionals score and use the ROSAC together.

What are the six structured steps for administering the ROSAC?

1-3: Coding is generally straightforward

1. Screen case to make sure it is appropriate for ROSAC
2. Collect data on Worksheets
3. Code the data on Coding Sheet

4-6: Interpreting often requires considerable expertise

4. Weigh the relevance of risk and protective factors
5. Make a risk determination using "professional judgment"
 - a. no clear present risk,
 - b. some,
 - c. significant
6. Develop a safety plan

What are the qualifications for coding and interpreting?

- **Coding: 1 - 3.** CPS professionals, probation and parole officers, and mental health practitioners who have a basic understanding of the dynamics of child sexual abuse and other types of maltreatment, sexual abuser risk assessment and management practices, and are familiar with local laws, regulations, and policies.
- **Interpreting: 4 - 6.** Weighing the relevance of each risk factor, making a risk determination, and developing a safety plan. Users can include a team of professionals. Users should possess the same qualifications as those who are qualified to code the ROSAC but at a high level of expertise.

1. Screen the case.

- The ROSAC is for adult males who:
 - have committed one or more sexually abusive acts (defined on next slide) on or after their 18th birthday,
 - have current contact, or are expected to have imminent contact, with a child age 17 or less, and
 - concerns exist that the individual poses risk to sexually abuse the child.

1. Screen the case, con't.

Person has committed sexually abusive acts (p. 5).

- Criminal conviction for a sexual or sexually related offense
- Substantiation of sexual abuse by a child or adult protective services agency
- Conviction for a probation/parole violation for behavior that constitutes a sexual offense
- Finding of guilt for an institutional rule violation for behavior that constitutes a sexual offense
- Credible self-reports of sexual offending.
- Document other credible reports of sexual offenses

2. Collect data about the 30 ROSAC risk items on the Worksheet?



What are the ROSAC Items? Abuser Considerations

Sexual Abuser History	
1.	Prior sex offenses
2.	Prior risk instruments
3.	Years sex offense free
4.	Sexual interests
5.	Duration sex offending
6.	Intrusiveness
7.	Use of force
8.	Victim harm
9.	Treatment history
10.	Offense responsibility
11.	Cooperation
Criminal History	
12.	Sentencing dates
13.	Non-sex violence
14.	Supervision History
Lifestyle Stability	
15.	Residence
16.	Employment
17.	Substance abuse
18.	Mental health
19.	Relationship history

What are the ROSAC Items? Child at Risk and Primary Caregiver Considerations

Child at Risk		Primary Caregiver	
20.	Contact with abuser	25.	Cooperative
21.	Gender	26.	Aware of abuser's risk
22.	Age	27.	Child caregiver history
23.	Past victimization	28.	Support network
24.	Disabilities	29.	Willing/able to protect
Other Considerations			
30.	Other considerations not accounted for by other items		

3. Code items on the coding sheet.

- The ROSAC manual contains item definitions and scoring criteria using a 3-point scale.
 - 0 = Risk factor is not present
 - 1 = Risk factor is partially present
 - 2 = Risk factor is present
- Scores are not added up. There is not a total score.
- Structured Professional Judgment (SPJ) is used to make risk determinations. SPJ approaches have shown similar predictive accuracy as actuarial approaches (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2009)

4. Weigh the relevance of risk and protective factors on the worksheet.

Weigh Towards Risk of Harm	Weigh Against Risk of Harm
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

5. Make a risk determination.

Risk Determination
<input type="checkbox"/> No clear present risk. No intervention or may monitor.
<input type="checkbox"/> Some risk. Restrict contact and develop safety plan.
<input type="checkbox"/> Significant risk. Prohibit all contact.

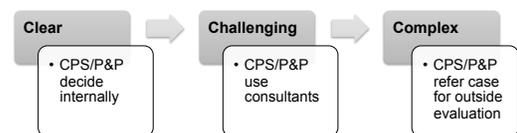
5. Make a risk determination.



6. Develop a safety plan.

A. Sexual Abuser Safety Plan
Prohibit all contact; Supervised contact; Unsupervised contact; Support; Assessment; Treatment; Monitoring
B. Child at Risk Safety Plan
Education; Support; Assessment; Treatment; Monitoring
C. Primary Caregiver Safety Plan
Prohibit all contact; Supervised contact; Unsupervised contact; Support; Assessment; Treatment; Monitoring

Who should make risk determinations and safety plans?



Ideally, a collaborative team of professionals score and use the ROSAC together.

And, about documenting your work!

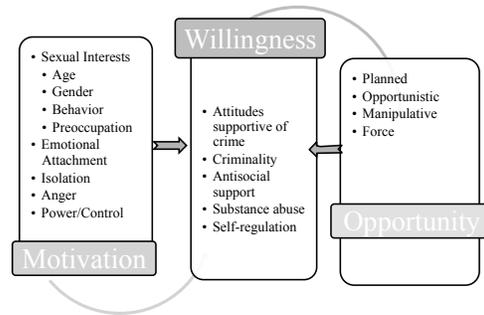
- Vermont Citizen's Advisory Board Child Death Review Report November 7, 2014:
 "Structured Decision Making risk assessment tools should be implemented consistently and regularly..... All risk factors should be thoroughly documented; information from the risk assessments (not just the "risk score") should be taken into consideration for case planning...."
- Miss Holt's 7th grade math class test instructions:
 "To get full credit, you need to show your work."

2. What are evidence-based risk assessment approaches?

Not all people who offend are the same

- Diverse group of individuals crossing socioeconomic, educational, gender, age, and cultural lines
- No single profile or motivation
- Engage in sexual abuse at *differing frequency, for varying reasons*, and present with *different levels of risk* for future sexually abusive behavior
 - *One Size Fits All responses are not effective, nor do they adequately promote public safety*

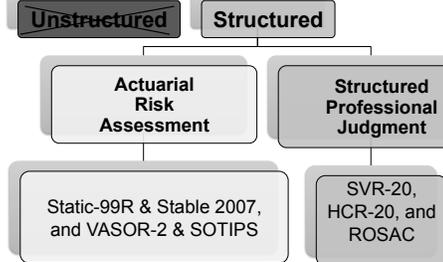
Dynamics of Offending



Types of Risk Factors

Static	Stable	Acute
Heart Attack		
• prior heart attack	• cholesterol	• stressful event
• family history	• weight	• drug reaction
Sexual Reoffending		
• prior sex offense	• sexual interests	• victim access
• prior other crimes	• sexual attitudes	• supports collapse
• unrelated victims	• impulsivity	• intoxication

Risk Assessment Approaches



What are the benefits of a structured approach?

- Recognizes that the accuracy of structured assessment methods are superior to unstructured ones
- Provides consistency and thoroughness
- Ensures that you won't forget anything
- Saves time by having all of the information organized in one place
- Provides documentation to support decisions

3. How do I code and use the ROSAC?

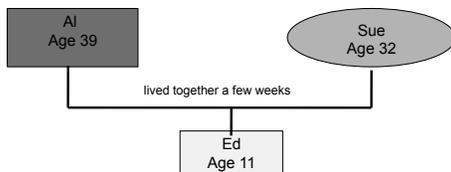
What information can I use to code the ROSAC?

- Official court records and police affidavits
- Correctional disciplinary and treatment records
- Presentence investigation reports
- CPS and APS records
- Psychological and psychosexual evaluations
- Interviews with abuser, child at risk, primary caregiver
- Sexual arousal and interest assessments
- Polygraph test results
- Risk assessments

Sexual Abuser Considerations:

Sexual Abusing History: Items 1-11

Does AI pose a ROSA to Ed?



AI Case Study

- AI, age 39, maxed out a 10-year prison sentence 4 years ago for sexually fondling a 12 year old boy. Static-99R risk score is high.
- He has been dating Sue, who has an 11-year-old son (Ed) and they all just started to live together. Neighbor reported this to CPS.
- AI has two prior convictions for sexually fondling 4 boys
- He accepts full responsibility for committing the sex offenses; completed SO treatment; very cooperative with the CPS interview.
- Except for his sex offenses, he has no other criminal history.
- His residence and employment have been stable the past year.
- He has no substance abuse or mental health problems.
- He has never lived with an adult lover for more than a few months.
- Ed (child at risk): has never been abused and has no disabilities.
- Sue (mom): cooperative with investigation; prosocial support system; good caregiver history; significantly minimizes AI's risk to reoffend

1. Prior Sanctioning Occasions for Sexual Abuse Acts

Page 17

This item is a marker for sexual deviance.

Persistently committing sex crimes, especially after having been caught and sanctioned for doing so, is linked to increased rates of sexually reoffending.

0	None. Other than the index sexual abuse act/s, the abuser has no prior sanctioning occasions for committing sexual or sexually related abusive acts.
2	One or more. In addition to the index sexual abuse act/s, the abuser has one or more prior sanctioning occasions for committing sexual or sexually related abusive acts.

1. Prior Sanctioning Occasions for Sexual Abuse Acts

Definitions

- **Index Sexual Abuse Act.** The most recent sexual abuse act for which the individual has been sanctioned. It may be for a single act or a cluster of multiple sexually abusive acts – called an index cluster.
- **Sanction.** A significant consequence for committing a sexually abusive act (e.g., conviction, substantiation, residential move).
- **Prior Sexual Abuse Acts.** Sexual abuse acts the abuser committed and was sanctioned for prior to being sanctioned for the index sexual abuse act. ROSAC is for adults, but sexually abusive acts an individual committed between the ages of 12 and 17 and are sanctioned can count as a "prior sexual abuse act" on this item.

2. Risk Level Based on an Actuarial Risk Instrument

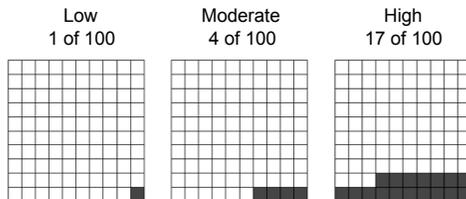
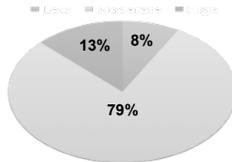
An overall risk level to sexually reoffend based on an actuarial risk assessment (ARA) instrument can provide a useful initial anchor for conducting risk of harm assessments.

n/a	Not available. Use of an actuarial risk instrument is not required to code the ROSAC.
0	Low risk to sexually reoffend on an actuarial risk instrument.
1	Moderate-low or moderate risk to sexually reoffend on an actuarial risk instrument.
2	Moderate-high or high risk to sexually reoffend on an actuarial risk instrument.

Static-99R

1.	Offender Age
2.	Never lived as married
3.	Index Non-sexual Violence
4.	Prior Non-sexual Violence
5.	Prior Sex Offenses
6.	Prior Sentencing Dates
7.	Non-Contact Offenses
8.	Unrelated Victim
9.	Stranger Victim
10.	Male Victim
Total Score from -3 to 12	

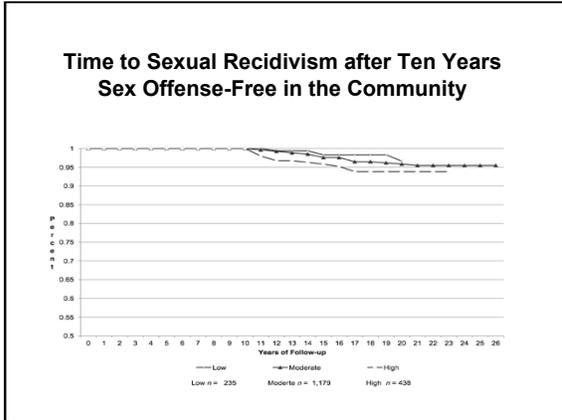
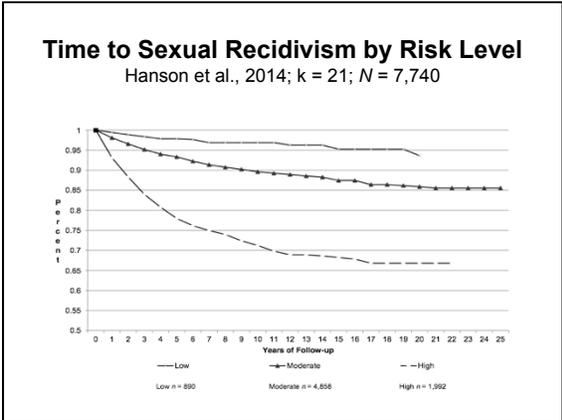
Vermont Static-99R Risk Levels and 5-Year Sexual Reoffense Rates



3. Years Sexual Abuse-Free in the Community

The risk of sexual reoffending among convicted sex offenders is highest during the first few years after placement in the community, and it decreases substantially the longer an individual remains sex offense-free in the community.

0	The abuser has lived more than 10 years sexual abuse-free in the community.
1	The abuser has lived 5 to 10 years sexual abuse-free in the community.
2	The abuser has lived less than 5 years sexual abuse-free in the community.



4. Abuse-Related Sexual Interests

Abuse-related sexual interests are established and relatively stable predictors of sexual reoffending. These include sexual interests in children and/or coercive sex.

0	The abuser has one sexual abuse victim and a history of consenting, age appropriate sexual relationships.
1	The abuser has 2 to 4 sexual abuse victims and a history of consenting, age appropriate sexual relationships or has any sexual interest assessment in which his arousal to abuse-related and non-abuse-related sexual themes are about the same.
2	The abuser has five or more sexual abuse victims, or has undergone any sexual interest assessment in which his arousal to offense-related sexual themes was greater than his arousal to appropriate sexual themes, or has minimal or no history of mutually consenting, age-appropriate sexual relationships.

5. Duration

Duration of sexual offending is a marker for the degree to which an individual has established an engrained pattern of sexual abusing.

0	One sexual abuse incident against one victim.
1	More than one sexual abuse incident against one or more victims over a period of less than 6 months.
2	More than one sexual abuse incident against one or more victims over a period of 6 months or more.

Measures of Offense Severity

- 6. Intrusiveness
- 7. Use of Force
- 8. Victim Physical Harm

Although offense severity is not linked with risk for sexual reoffending, higher severity sex offenses are considered more serious than lower severity ones. For example, these three offense characteristics are aggravating factors in many sex offender sentencing schemes and carry enhanced penalties. As well, some evidence exists that the severity of past sexual offenses is moderately predictive of the severity of future sexual reoffenses.

Note. The severity factors contained in the ROSAC do not directly account for psychological or emotional victim harm, which is not directly assessed on the ROSAC.

6. Intrusiveness

The rationale for this item is detailed in the preceding slide.

0	The abuser committed noncontact sexual abuse acts only, such as voyeurism, public masturbation, exhibitionism, possession of child pornography, and obscene telephone calling.
1	The abuser used verbal manipulation or other nonforceful means to commit contact sexual abuse acts that did not include any of the elements described in the criteria to code "2" on this item.
2	The abuser committed a sexual abuse act that involved actual or attempted penile, digital, or object penetration of the vagina or anus or an act that involved fellatio or cunnilingus.

7. Use of Force

The rationale for this item is detailed on preceding slide.

0	The abuser committed noncontact sexual abuse acts only, such as voyeurism, public masturbation, exhibitionism, possession of child pornography, and obscene telephone calling.
1	The abuser used verbal manipulation or other nonforceful means to committed contact sexual abuse acts that did not include any of the elements described in the criteria for "2" in the box below.
2	The abuser used a potentially deadly weapon, force greater than necessary to gain compliance, clear threats of physical harm to the victim or others, or kidnapping.

8. Victim Physical Harm

The rationale for this item is detailed on preceding slide.

0	The victim did not sustain a physical injury.
1	The victim sustained a physical injury, but it did not require medical attention. Examples include minor bruises, scratches, and abrasions.
2	The victim sustained a physical injury that required medical treatment by trained medical personnel either in a hospital or an outpatient setting.

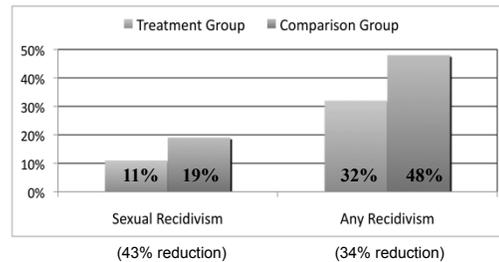
9. Sexual Abuser Treatment

Overall, sexual abusers who complete specialized sexual abuser treatment sexually reoffend at lower rates than those who do not complete treatment.

0	The abuser successfully completed specialized sexual abuser treatment or was not referred to this type of treatment.
1	The abuser is currently in specialized sexual abuser treatment.
2	The abuser did not successfully complete recommended sexual abuser treatment or completed treatment and committed another sexually abusive act.

Hanson et al. Meta-Analysis (2009)

23 sex offender studies; 3,625 offenders
reasonably good designs; median follow-up = 4.7 years



10. Responsibility for Sexual Abusing

This item is concerned with the degree to which the individual reports that his sexual abusing behavior was the result of his personal choices and actions as opposed to external causes.

0	Full. The abuser currently takes full responsibility for his sexual abusing behavior.
1	Some. The abuser currently takes partial responsibility for his sexual abusing behavior.
2	None. The abuser currently takes no responsibility for his sexual abusing behavior, which includes saying that he has no memory of or has never committed a sexually abusive act.

11. Cooperation with Investigation and Intervention

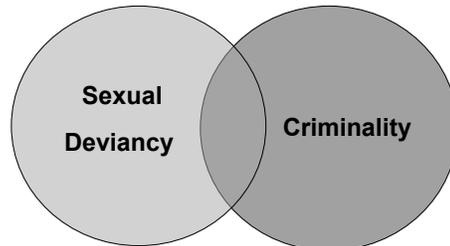
This item concerns the individual's level of cooperation with investigation and recommended interventions.

0	Cooperative. The abuser cooperates with the investigation and, if recommended, follows the safety plan.
1	Somewhat uncooperative. The abuser follows the recommended safety plan but is only partially willing to cooperate with the investigation.
2	Uncooperative. The abuser is not willing to cooperate with the investigation or does not follow the recommended safety plan.

Sexual Abuser Considerations:

Criminal History: Items 12-14

Recidivism Risk Two Major Predictors



12. Sentencing Dates

Sex offenders with extensive criminal histories are at higher risk to sexually reoffend than those with no or minimal criminal histories.

0	The abuser has <u>no or one</u> sentencing date for a criminal offense.
1	The abuser has <u>two to four</u> sentencing dates for criminal offenses.
2	The abuser has <u>five or more</u> sentencing dates for criminal offenses.

13. Non-Sexual Violence History

A history of non-sexual violence is a predictor for sexual and other violent reoffending. It is also a predictor of overt violence were a reoffense to occur.

0	The abuser has no history of non-sexual violence.
1	The abuser has a history of committing one non-sexual violent act.
2	The abuser has a history of committing two or more non-sexual violent acts on two or more separate occasions.

14. Violations of Community Release Conditions, Past 5 Years

This item concerns an abuser's compliance with probation, parole, court orders, and CPS safety plans during the past five years of "street time." Noncompliance with community release conditions is a well-established predictor of sexual, violent, and any recidivism.

0	The abuser has <u>no</u> violations of probation, parole, court orders, or CPS safety plans during the past 5 years of street time.
1	The abuser has <u>one</u> violation of probation, parole, court orders, or CPS safety plans during the past 5 years of street time.
2	The abuser has <u>two or more</u> violations of probation, parole, court orders, or CPS safety plans during the past 5 years of street time.

Sexual Abuser Considerations:

Lifestyle Stability: Items 15-19

15. Residence, Past Year

This item concerns the individual's residence stability during the past year of street time. Lack of a stable residence is a dynamic risk factor, which is linked to sexual offending.

0	The abuser has had <u>no or one</u> address change during the past year of street time.
1	The abuser has had <u>two</u> address changes during the past year of street time.
2	The abuser has had <u>three or more</u> address changes during the past year of street time; or periods of homelessness.

16. Employment, Past Year

This item concerns the individual's ability to maintain full-time employment and/or school enrollment during the past year of street time. Lack of stable employment has been linked to an increased likelihood of sexual recidivism.

0	The abuser has been employed and/or in school <u>60% of the time or more</u> during the past year, or the individual was retired, disabled, or a homemaker during the past year of street time.
1	The abuser has been employed and/or in school <u>40 to 59% of the time</u> during the past year of street time.
2	The abuser has been employed and/or in school <u>less than 40% of the time</u> during the past year of street time.

17. Substance Use, Past Year

This item concerns the individual's use of drugs and alcohol during the past year of street time. Substance misuse can lower an individual's inhibitions, which may increase the likelihood of engaging in inappropriate behavior.

0	No Problems. Substance use has not interfered with the abuser's functioning during the past year of street time.
1	Some problems. Substance abuse has caused some legal or occasional social problems with the abuser's functioning during the past year of street time.
2	Serious problems. Substance abuse has caused serious life disruptions during the past year (e.g., played a role in commission of a sexually abusive act or has caused serious and frequent life disruptions such as multiple drug related offenses or job loss).

18. Mental Health, Past Year

The focus of this item is whether the individual has had major mental health problems during the last year that are linked with sexual abusing, and therefore are a current concern.

0	No problems. The abuser has not had mental health problems during the past year.
1	Some problems. The abuser, during the past year, has had some mental health problems that are linked to sexual abusing.
2	Serious problems. The abuser, during the past year, has had serious mental health problems that are linked to sexual abusing.

19. Adult Intimate Relationships

Sex offenders who have shown an ability to maintain stable adult intimate relationships are at lower risk to sexually reoffend than those who have not. For this item, the 2-year benchmark for living with an adult partner is empirically derived.

0	The abuser has lived with an adult lover for at least 2 years.
1	The abuser has lived with an adult lover for at least 2 years, but his history of adult love relationships has been marked by significant problems in the <u>past</u> such as physical abuse, verbal abuse, or infidelity.
2	The abuser has never lived with an adult lover for at least 2 years <u>or</u> the relationship with <u>current</u> partner is marked by significant problems such as physical abuse, verbal abuse, or infidelity.

Child at Risk Considerations: Items 20-24

Children are not responsible for being victims of sexual or any other type of abuse, but some risk factors can make some children more vulnerable to sexual abuse.

20. Contact with Abuser

In order to sexually abuse a child, an abuser must have the opportunity to do so. This item concerns how much and what type of contact the child has had with the abuser at the time of the risk of harm assessment.

0	The child had no prior contact with the abuser as of the time of the risk of harm report.
1	The child's contact with the abuser had been intermittent and supervised as of the time of the risk of harm report.
2	The child had been having unsupervised contact with or had lived with the abuser as of the time of the risk of harm report.

Victim Gender and Victim Age Considerations

- Coding criteria for # 21 Victim Gender and # 22 Victim Age are based on several research studies, which indicate that sex offenders who sexually reoffend typically do so against victims of the same gender and a similar age as their past victims.
- A caution however is that a significant minority of offenders appear to engage in crossover offending. That is, they offend against victims from multiple age, gender, and relationship categories.
- Some research has found that sex offenders who have sexually abused young child victims are more likely to have victims of both genders.

21. Gender

If the child is the same gender as an abuser's previous sexual abuse victim, this is a risk factor.

0	The child is <u>not</u> the same gender as any of the abuser's sexual abuse victims.
2	The child <u>is</u> the same gender as at least one of the abuser's sexual abuse victims.

22. Age

Sex offenders who sexually reoffend typically do so against victims of a similar age as their past victims. Give the highest possible score on this item.

0	The abuser's sexual abuse victims were all age 16 or older.
1	The abuser has any sexual abuse victims age 15 or younger.
2	The abuser has a sexual abuse victim who is within 5 years of age of the child at risk, and the abuser was more than 3 years older than the child at the time of the abuse.

23. Past Victimization

Children who have been emotionally and physically abused are at increased risk to be sexually abused, and children who have been sexually abused are at a significantly higher risk to be sexually abused again.

0	The child does not have a history of prior sexual, emotional, or physical abuse.
1	There are strong indications that the child may have a history of prior sexual, emotional, or physical abuse.
2	The child has a history of prior sexual, emotional, or physical abuse.

24. Disabilities or Young Age

Children with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities experience higher rates of maltreatment, including sexual abuse, than do other children. Young children and those with some disabilities may not understand that sexual contact with an adult is inappropriate and/or may not be able to report the abuse effectively to others.

0	The child does not have a physical, cognitive, or emotional disability and is age 5 or older.
1	The child has a physical, cognitive, or emotional disability that impacts, to a slight degree, his or her ability to self protect.
2	The child has a physical, cognitive, or emotional disability that, to a significant degree, impacts his or her ability to self protect or the child is under the age of 5.

**Primary Caregiver
Considerations:
Items 25-29**

25. Cooperation with Investigation and Intervention

This item concerns the primary caregiver's level of cooperation with the risk of harm investigation and, if recommended, cooperation following the safety plan.

0	Cooperative. The primary caregiver cooperates with the investigation and follows the recommended safety plan.
1	Somewhat uncooperative. The primary caregiver follows the recommended safety plan but is inconsistent in cooperating with the investigation.
2	Uncooperative. The primary caregiver is not cooperative with the investigation or does not follow the recommended safety plan.

26. Awareness of Abuser's Risk

This item concerns the degree to which the primary caregiver knows about the abuser's sexual abusing history, believes he committed the sexual abuse, and has a realistic view of his risk.

0	The primary caregiver knows about the abuser's sexual abusing history, believes that he committed the sexual abuse, and has a realistic view of his risk to the child.
1	The primary caregiver has limited knowledge or understanding about the abuser's sexual abusing history or minimizes his risk to the child.
2	The primary caregiver does not know about the abuser's sexual abusing history, <u>or</u> does not believe that the abuser committed the sexual abuses, <u>or</u> significantly minimizes risk to the child.

27. Child Caregiver History

This item concerns the primary caregiver's history of providing a safe and supportive environment for children under his or her care. Caregivers who have a history of abusing or neglecting a child are at higher risk to abuse or neglect children in the future.

0	Good. Has a history of providing a safe and supportive environment for children under his or her care.
1	Some concerns. Has a history of some difficulties providing a safe and supportive environment for children under his or her care but not as serious as "2."
2	Serious concerns. Has any substantiations, charges, or separations from a child for abuse, neglect, or failure to protect.

28. Support Network

Supportive and emotionally satisfying relationships with prosocial family and friends may help the primary caregiver follow a recommended safety plan

0	Primarily positive. The primary caregiver has a support system composed primarily of individuals who are a positive influence.
1	Mix of positive and negative. The primary caregiver has a support system composed of a substantial mix of individuals who are both a positive and negative influence <u>or</u> the primary caregiver is very socially isolated.
2	Primarily negative. The primary caregiver has a support system composed primarily of individuals who are a negative influence.

29. Willingness and Ability to Protect

- Caregiver knows about the abuser's sexual abusing history,
- believes that the abuser committed the sexual abuses,
- has a realistic view of his risk to the child,
- is willing to follow any recommended safety plans, and
- does not have any problems that would undermine his or her ability to protect the child (e.g., ID, MI, substance abuse).

0	Good. The primary caregiver's willingness and ability to protect the child is good.
1	Questionable. The primary caregiver's willingness and ability to protect the child is questionable.
2	Poor. The primary caregiver's willingness and ability to protect the child is poor.

Other Considerations: Item 30

30. Other Considerations

This section of the Coding Sheet provides space for the evaluator to note "Other Considerations" that impact risk to the child but are not accounted for by the other ROSAC items.

Considerations Associated with Increased Risk

- Abuser is sole caregiver
- Abuser has previously sexually abused the child at risk
- Abuser has an intellectual disability
- Abuser's recent stated intention to sexually offend
- Abuser's recent use of child pornography
- Abuser's recent grooming behavior
- Child fearful or concerned that abuser may be abusive
- Primary caregiver fearful that abuser is a risk to the child
- Secondary caregiver exists and may place child at risk

Considerations Associated with Decreased Risk

- Abuser has recent history of utilizing a strong and practical plan to prevent reoffense
- Abuser has lived with and provided appropriate care to the child at risk for a substantial period of time
- Abuser has current medical condition that significantly limits ability to sexually offend
- Secondary caregiver exists and is willing and able to protect child

Impact of Contact versus Separation on the Child

A supportive and nurturing family, a sense of connectedness, and a permanent home are central to a child's healthy development. Child protection interventions must take into account each child's needs for stability as well as safety. Risk of harm of sexual abuse must be balanced with the risk of harm of separation from adults to whom the child is attached. The assessment should include an examination of the degree to which the child wants contact with and is emotionally attached to the abuser.

Considerations:

- The child does not want contact with or has no attachment to the abuser
- The child is ambivalent about contact with the abuser and/or has a relatively weak attachment
- The child wants contact with the abuser and/or has a strong attachment

4. How to apply the ROSAC to cases?

AI, Sue, and Ed Case Study

What are the six structured steps for administering the ROSAC?

- 1-3: **Coding** is generally straightforward
1. Screen case to make sure it is appropriate for ROSAC
 2. Collect data on Worksheets
 3. Code the data on Coding Sheet
- 4-6: **Interpreting** often requires considerable expertise
4. Weigh the relevance of risk and protective factors
 5. Make a risk determination using "professional judgment"
 - a. no clear present risk, b. some, or c. significant
 6. Develop a safety plan

1. Screen the referral (p. 5).

ROSAC is for cases involving adult males who:

- have committed one or more sexually abusive acts on or after their 18th birthday,
- have current contact, or are expected to have imminent contact, with a child age 17 or less, and
- concerns exist that the individual poses risk to sexually abuse the child.

2. Collect data on worksheets.

Sexual Abuser
ROSAC Data Collection Worksheet - page 1 of 6

Abuser: _____ Age: _____
 Code: _____ Date: _____

Screening Questions for Sexual Abuse Acts

1a. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1b. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1c. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1d. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1e. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1f. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1g. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1h. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1i. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1j. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1k. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1l. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1m. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1n. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1o. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1p. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1q. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1r. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1s. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1t. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1u. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1v. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1w. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1x. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1y. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1z. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

Copyright © 2015 John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

3. Code the data on the "Coding Sheet."

ROSAC Coding Sheet

Abuser: _____ Age: _____
 Code: _____ Date: _____

Screening Questions for Sexual Abuse Acts

1a. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1b. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1c. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1d. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1e. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1f. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1g. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1h. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1i. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1j. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1k. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1l. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1m. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1n. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1o. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1p. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1q. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1r. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1s. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1t. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1u. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1v. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1w. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1x. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1y. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

1z. Did the abuser commit any of the following acts on or after his 18th birthday? (See acts sheet if needed)

Copyright © 2015 John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

4. Weigh the relevance of risk and protective factors on worksheet.

AI, Sue, & Ed Case Study

Weigh Towards Risk of Harm	Weigh Against Risk of Harm
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

5. Make a risk determination.

Risk Determination

- No clear present risk.** No intervention or may monitor.
- Some risk.** Restrict contact and develop safety plan.
- Significant risk.** Prohibit all contact.

6. Develop a safety plan.

A. Sexual Abuser Safety Plan

Prohibit all contact; Education; Supervised contact; Unsupervised contact; Support; Assessment; Treatment; Monitoring

B. Child at Risk Safety Plan

Education; Support; Assessment; Treatment; Monitoring

C. Primary Caregiver Safety Plan

Prohibit all contact; Education; Supervised contact; Unsupervised contact; Support; Assessment; Treatment; Monitoring

Discussion

Summary

1. What is the ROSAC?
2. What is evidence-based risk assessment?
3. How do I code the ROSAC?
4. How do I apply the ROSAC to cases?

Thank You!

Robert McGrath
rmcgrath@sover.net
www.robertmcgrath.us

Maia Christopher
maia@atsa.com
Atsa.com