

## How to Work With Sex Offenders: A Handbook for Criminal Justice, Human Services, and Mental Health Professionals

by Rudy Flora; New York, Haworth Clinical Practice Press, 2001, 274 pages, \$22.95 softcover

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This book represents an effort to provide a concise and comprehensive informational resource for individuals who work with sex offenders within relevant legal and clinical contexts. The author, Rudy Flora, also seeks to explore and define the structure and function of the multiple systems through which sex offenders may move from the time of their arrest through the time they begin treatment.

Early chapters cover in very broad strokes the criminal justice, human services, and mental health systems and subsystems and their individual roles in the process of dealing with sex offenders and their victims. The author also identifies and outlines some of the techniques and standards used in each of these independent yet interrelated disciplines in their approach to investigating sexual crimes and interviewing, profiling, assessing, and treating sexual perpetrators. Later chapters are dedicated to an elementary identification of both clinical and criminal classifications of sex offenders, a brief overview of the multiple etiological theories that have been purported in the sex offender literature, and an outline and review of a variety of treatment approaches that have been established in the clinical treatment of sex offenders and of special subpopulations of sex offenders.

Criminal justice, human service, and mental health workers who are new to the task of working with sex offenders may find this text to be a useful primer to the sex offender field. In particular, the portion of the book that covers taxonomies, theories, and treatment of sex of-

fenders provides the working basis for a fairly sound introductory curriculum for clinical work with sex offenders. However, the author set himself a difficult task in trying to provide a comprehensive resource for a relatively new, highly complex, and rapidly evolving field that involves the intersection of several multilayered systems that is still in the early stages of its development. As a result, complicated yet essential topics—such as social policy issues, ethical dilemmas, and the most current research and practice data—may have received short shrift or

been unable to be included. In addition, it seems a significant and short-sighted omission that a book designed as a reference source for professionals failed to include any references to the international, national, and more local professional organizations that exist to provide information, education, conferences, support, practice standards and guidelines, forums for discussion and exchange, and access to the most-up-to-date information and research data available to individuals who work with sex offenders. However, although professionals in criminal justice, human services, and mental health who have experience working with sex offenders may find this book too elemental and thin on extant information, novices in the field can use this handbook to get their early bearings in a profession rife with challenge and complexity.

## Not Fair! The Typology of Commonsense Unfairness

by Norman J. Finkel; Washington, D.C., American Psychological Association, 2001, 335 pages, \$39.95

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During the course of a typical day, individuals working in the field of psychiatric services are likely to hear someone proclaim "That's not fair!" Examples include a consumer's perceiving the clinical treatment decisions of care providers as unfair and a violation of his or her rights and a clinician's considering a managed care utilization guideline as unfair and an encroachment on the clinician's professional autonomy. Although many psychiatric services professionals are likely to be familiar with these or similar claims of unfairness in ordinary discourse, how many have stopped to think about the nuances of the expression "That's not fair"?

Written by a psychologist with expertise in psychology and the law, the book *Not Fair! The Typology of Commonsense Unfairness* is worth exploring even if you have wondered only fleetingly about the concept of unfairness. Academics in traditional social

science disciplines such as psychology, anthropology, philosophy, theology, criminology, and political science constitute the principal audience for the book. Secondary audiences include lawyers, divorce and labor mediators, psychologists and other mental health clinicians, politicians, and public-spirited citizens.

The book is organized into five sections that flow nicely from start to finish. In the first section, Finkel establishes the context of the major theological, philosophical, and psychological underpinnings behind claims of unfairness and discusses the viewpoints of critics who consider unfairness claims to be largely petty and trivial. The first section of the book also lays out the author's preliminary

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