

PREFACE

Much misinformation and many myths surround sex offenders and their crimes. This book provides a full accounting of what we know about sex offenders and sex offenses.

These are difficult subjects to study. The crimes and the individuals who perpetrate them are generally horrific to consider. Although the acts are heinous and the offenders themselves are deplorable, sex offenders and their offenses are subjects of morbid curiosity. Despite being widely publicized and loudly condemned, however, sex crimes and sex offenders are seldom accurately understood. To some extent, sex offending behaviors are specialized. While research has taught us a great deal, our use of the term “sex offender” as an umbrella for many types of individuals and a variety of different behaviors can interfere with effective study of sex offender behaviors, for instance, discerning the differences between sex offenders whose victims are children and those who target adults.

This book explores all the facets of sex offenders and their crimes. From the nature of sex crimes to sexual deviance to an emphasis on the crimes of rape and sexual offenses against children, this book explores all topics traditionally found in textbooks on sex offenses and offenders. In addition to these topic areas, however, this book also explores the societal response to sex offenders and sex offenses through the criminal justice system. Topics to which we pay special attention here are the interaction between sex offenders and law enforcement and investigation; the courts; and the corrections and treatments to which sex offenders are subjected. This book emphasizes punishment, corrections, and post-punishment treatment of sex offenders. The chapters on those issues evaluate all relevant topics, including sex offenders in prison, historical punishments imposed on sex offenders, sex offender recidivism, sex offender registration and notification policies (SORN), residence restrictions, civil commitments, and the treatment of sex offenders. In total, five chapters are devoted to these critical sex offender topics. Victims of sex offenders and the impact sex offenses have on their lives are also treated in depth. Finally, this book examines possible directions for future policies on sex offenders and offenses, and other topics society and the criminal justice system must address to better deal with the threat of sex offenders.

Chapters are written in a manner accessible to all audiences, and each contains a number of features that will help readers to understand, absorb, and retain the information. Chapters begin with lists of objectives to prepare readers to recognize and focus on key points and themes. In addition, each chapter contains a narrative on the topic at hand, drawn from the real world, to illustrate and provide practical perspective on the complexity and impact of the sex offense under discussion for society, perpetrator, and victim. Throughout the text, contemporary research findings and

statistics provide an accurate accounting of sex offenders, helping to dispel some of the myths and misinformation that often arise in relation to sex offenders and their crimes. The chapters conclude with several items, including lists of key terms (defined in a glossary at the end of the text), exercises, and essay questions, to offer review opportunities and to aid in knowledge retention.

Building on the features of the first edition, this new edition updates the research and literature in the areas of sex offenses, sex offenders, and the criminal justice response. Throughout this edition, there are updated stories that precede the chapter to highlight actual instances of sex crimes and/or criminal justice responses to sex crimes.

Most important, this second edition incorporates an exploration of a type of behavior analogous to sex crimes that has recently received attention through the #MeToo movement: sexual harassment, especially in the workplace. We have added new material throughout the book to illustrate the similarities in behavior between sex crimes and sexual harassment, and we examine why sexual harassment is not handled through the criminal justice system as a criminal offense. The importance of the #MeToo movement to victims of sexual harassment and assault is also examined. As with other textbooks, a host of ancillary materials has been prepared for the use of instructors. The test bank includes sample examinations for all fourteen chapters in the book. PowerPoint presentations make prepping for classes easier. The accompanying teacher's manual enhances discussions found within each chapter. Finally, course outlines are available for quick snapshots of the information contained in the chapters.