

Connecticut Department of Correction

**Division of Parole and Community Services
Special Management Unit**

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Special Management Unit

- The Division of Parole and Community Services maintains a Special Management Unit (SMU) with a mission to protect the public by increasing the likelihood of successful reintegration of offenders requiring specialized supervision and treatment for problem sexual behavior.
- The unit is responsible for the statewide supervision of approximately 295 paroled sex offenders.

Special Management Unit

Supervision Criteria:

- Prior criminal conviction or charge indicating behavior that may require supervision or treatment for problem sexual behavior;
- Stipulated to participate in treatment for problem sexual behavior;
- Current or previous Connecticut or out-of-state conviction(s); and
- Required to register as a sexual offender.

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- SMU employs a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach to manage sex offenders.
- Focused on collaboration with treatment providers, victim advocates, law enforcement, and polygraph examiners.
- The unit's specially trained parole officers work closely with key stakeholders to form supervision teams to advance collective public safety goals.

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These stakeholders include:

- Sex offender treatment providers and polygraph examiners from The Connection Inc., Center for the Treatment of Problem Sexual Behavior;
- Victim advocates from Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services;
- State Police from the Sex Offender Registry and Computer Crime Units; and
- Local law enforcement.

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- SMU releases between 20-30 sexual offenders each month to both private residences and contracted programs around the state.
- More than half of all sex offenders under SMU supervision are serving a period of special parole, a mandatory period of supervision.

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- SMU strives to place offenders in or close to their community of origin, absent concerns related to victims, lack of housing, or offender safety.
- Most sex offenders released to discretionary parole are placed with an approved sponsor while the majority of offenders released to special parole have no housing and require placement in contracted housing.
- SMU has not placed a sex offender in a shelter in over 10 years.

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- SMU utilizes The January Center inpatient sex offender treatment facility and Chrysalis and REACH alternative housing programs.
- The alternative housing program network is distributed throughout the entire state.
- There have been no incidents of sexual recidivism in Chrysalis and REACH since their inception (2005 and 2008).

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SMU utilizes specialized techniques and interventions which include:

- Validated sex offender risk assessments.
- Facility interviews.
- Offender-specific case management plans.
- Registration.
- Home investigations.
- Targeted residency restrictions.

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- Offense specific cognitive-behavioral sex offender treatment.
- Tiered supervision levels.
- Continual monitoring of dynamic risk factors.
- Home visits.
- Compliance checks
- Collateral contacts.
- Appropriate responses to violations.

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- Computer monitoring
- Office visits
- Employment visits
- Drug and alcohol testing in field and office.
- GPS monitoring.
- Routine searches.

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Critical Supervision Considerations:

- Who would be the likely victims of a re-offense?
- What is the probability of re-offense?
- What degree of harm would most likely result from re-offense?
- What are the conditions under which an offense is most likely to occur?
- When is a re-offense most likely to occur?

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Acute Dynamic Risk Factors:

- Rejection of Supervision
- Victim access
- Sexual Preoccupation
- Substance Abuse
- Hostility
- Emotional Collapse
- Collapse of Social Support

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- SMU officers routinely conduct compliance checks with state and local law enforcement to monitor adherence to sex offender registration requirements, parole conditions, and sex offender treatment restrictions.
- SMU conducts hundreds of compliance checks each year. A thorough search of each offender's residence and is performed during compliance checks.

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- SMU's intensive supervision model includes an average of 100 sex offenders monitored with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology on a daily basis.
- Active GPS units are used exclusively to enhance supervision and afford parole officers the ability locate offenders in a timely manner.
- GPS tracking information is routinely shared with law enforcement for investigations.

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- Sex offender treatment has been shown to reduce sexual recidivism when combined with parole supervision.
- Empirically validated cognitive-behavioral sex offender treatment is an intervention required of offenders supervised by SMU.
- Treatment groups are held in numerous locations across the state including district parole offices in Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, and Bridgeport.

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- SMU supervision has resulted in positive outcomes for the community and offender population. Sexual recidivism rates for offenders under SMU supervision has consistently been less than 1% annually.
- Some years have seen sexual recidivism rates at 0% for offenders under SMU supervision.

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- “Since the overwhelming majority of sex offenders will likely be released into the community at some point and because research demonstrates that observed recidivism rates for sexual, violent, and non-violent crime are lower when sex offenders receive appropriate interventions, such as proper supervision and treatment, it is incumbent upon public safety agencies to provide services to offenders that can ensure the most effective management of these offenders in an effort to reduce future victimization.”
(CSOM)