

MEMO

DATE: August 30, 2022

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: SOMB Family Education, Engagement, and Support Working Group

TOPIC: Release to the Public of the completed *Resource Guide for Families of Adults Accused, Charged or Convicted of Sexual Offenses in Colorado* [with updated links and QR codes]

The completed *Resource Guide for Families of Adults Accused, Charged or Convicted of Sexual Offenses in Colorado* is now available to the public.

BACKGROUND: The Family Education, Engagement and Support Committee – later renamed the Family Education, Engagement and Support Working Group (Working Group) – was established by the SOMB in June 2015, in response to family members' concerns about what happens to loved ones who are accused or convicted of a sex offense. Family members expressed a need for information about what happens to loved ones who enter the legal system, subject to sex offense provisions and requirements under the law. For over six years, the Working Group met during the first Friday of each month. The meeting was facilitated by family members and included family members, registered citizens, advocates for people with sexual offenses, advocates for people who have been sexually victimized, community and prison-based therapists, probation and parole representatives, legal representatives, and Sex Offender Management Board members and staff. This Working Group worked collaboratively with stakeholders to produce a product that will inform, support, and recognize the impact of their loved one's crime on their family members and finally, provides appropriate ways for family members to engage with the various agencies and boards their loved one will travel through. With the completion of this work, the Working Group is now on a well-earned hiatus.

PURPOSE of the GUIDE: This guide was prepared to answer many questions, to provide resources, and to validate the emotional upheaval that family members may experience as a loved one goes through the justice system. The committee is endeavoring to provide a family perspective using family friendly language without compromising accuracy of information.

GUIDE PREPARATION PROCESS: Early on, the Working Group decided to focus on producing a document that provides information to family members from arrest to post sentence, which recognizes the impact on families, and suggests what family members can do, and where they can go to get answers. The Resource Guide for Families of Adults Accused, Charged or Convicted of Sexual Offenses in Colorado (The Guide) is divided in three parts plus Appendices: Part 1 – Supporting Your Loved One from Arrest to Sentencing; Part 2 -Serving the Sentence (with post sentence considerations); Part 3 – Agency Information, provided directly from the respective agencies. The Guide aims to be clear about what each step from arrest to post sentencing looks like to a family member who may be seeing their loved one in the judicial system for the first time. The Working group felt it was important to describe each step accurately if not thoroughly. So it was vital to the Working Group that each agency/system/department/board vet the description of their part. Beyond that, the perspective of each chapter is from the family point of view. The Guide includes Alert Boxes, Key Terms, Glossary, and Personal Stories.

WHERE TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE GUIDE: The Resource Guide for Families of Adults Accused, Charged or Convicted of Sexual Offenses in Colorado is freely available for download to all members of the public from:

<https://www.advocates4change.org/family-resource-guide/> The Resource Guide is being posted on this website solely as a public service.

The download page can also be accessed through this QR code by mobile devices:

