



## **Understanding Sex Offenders – The Hunter & The Hunted**

We can learn a great deal from successful hunters by examining their methods, tactics, and motives. There are many similarities between people who hunt animals and sex offenders who prey on humans. They routinely ply their trade in secret. Sex offenders are also extremely cunning and extremely effective in their criminal activity. They have a great capacity to fool not only their victims, but mental health and criminal justice professionals as well. This presentation will explore many societal myths that enable the sex offender to operate successfully among us all without suspicion and detection. We will discuss how they deceive, why they do what they do, and how we can peer through the fog and identify them and their horrific acts. Participants will be presented up-to-date research, case studies, and strategies on understanding sex offenders from a criminal justice viewpoint. This session will take what we've been taught about typical offender typologies and compare what we think we know with empirical research and current state of knowledge. This contrast and comparison will facilitate a better understanding of all professionals who work with adult and child victims of sex offenders and sex offenders themselves. We are not as safe as we think. What we don't know will hurt us...and those we try to protect.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Understand the prevalence of sexual violence and identify common sex offender behaviors and motives for their crimes
  - Determine the danger sex offenders pose to our society by understanding the true nature of their crimes
  - Explore strategies to reduce the risk sex offenders pose to our communities
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