

NOJOS Certification and Training

Sex-specific NOJOS treatment is a structured, multi-modal, multi-systemic, skill-based treatment. This treatment works best when it is relationship-based and is provided in a developmentally- sensitive, empathetic, warm, rewarding and directive environment. NOJOS also recognizes that these youth (when removed from their home and community) can be successfully reunified with their families/victims. However, to accomplish this, providers must assist youth in learning to generalize the skills they have developed into their family system as well as the community. This is accomplished through well-designed aftercare programs. NOJOS also understands that youth get healthier more quickly, and positive treatment progress occurs, with the inclusion of the youth's family in all aspects of assessment and treatment. Best practice sex-specific treatment is holistic, and it recognizes work with youth who engage in sexual misconduct is even more complex than traditional therapeutic approaches, as it deals with developmental and cognitive issues, personality development, family and community systems, a complex interplay between developing emotions and behaviors, the line between normative sex play and experimentation and the development of sexually abusive behaviors, psychiatric co-morbidity, social learning, and often the echoes of personal trauma in the youth (Rich, Phil. (2003); Understanding, Assessing, And Rehabilitating Juvenile sexual offenders; John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Page 4).

Clearly, the treatment of adolescent sexual issues is specialized and differs from generic mental-health treatment approaches. Indeed, "treatment requires a specially skilled clinician and clinical approach;" thus a "high level of therapist skill for clinicians working with youthful offenders is paramount" (Ward, T.; Polaschek, D. and Beech, A. Theories of Sexual Offending, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. 2006, page 324). Accordingly, sex-specific treatment should be provided by NOJOS Certified Clinicians who have additional training and experience in working with juveniles, sexual abuse and sexual issues.

NOJOS Clinical Certification Requirements

1. Applicant must have a master's or doctoral degree in social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy, counseling, educational psychology, or other mental-health field from a fully-accredited college or university, or a psychiatric nurse or a medical doctor if the individual is a board certified/eligible psychiatrist.
2. Clinical Status Applicants must have a current license from the Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing. Licensure should be in the mental-health field (i.e. psychiatry, psychology, licensed professional counselor, social work, or marriage and family therapy).
3. Within the three-year period immediately preceding this application, the applicant must have at least 2000 hours of direct, clinical contact in a sex-offender treatment program. Direct clinical contact is defined as a licensed/supervised mental health professional providing sex-specific therapeutic intervention to persons who have sexually offended, been offended on, and/or those whose lives have been impacted by sexual offending.

Indirect clinical contact is defined as any activities, tasks, information gathering or related endeavors that will assist the provider. For example, case supervision, case staffing, file maintenance, session notes, attending or providing training, case coordination, publishing, and research). Included in the 2000 hours, there must be at least 1500 hours of direct clinical client contact, such as, individual, couples, group and/or family therapies.

4. Within the three-year period immediately preceding this application, the applicant must have completed a minimum of forty hours of formal sex offender-specific training through documented conferences, symposia, seminars or course work directly related to the evaluation and treatment of sex offenders. (The NOJOS Training Academies, NAPN, ATSA conference trainings meet the majority of the requirements.)
5. Clinical Status Applicants must have as a basic philosophy that comports with guidelines established by the National Adolescent Perpetration Network, the Association for the Treatment of Sex Abuses, and the NOJOS Adolescent Treatment/Placement Protocol and Standards Manual.
6. Clinical Status Applicants must adhere to the child abuse reporting laws as required by the Utah State Department of Human Services and the State of Utah.
7. Clinical Status Applicants may supervise a maximum of three Affiliate Status providers.
8. All service providers who change from one program to another must update their application within sixty days of the change in order to maintain the credential status.
9. Criminal convictions or licensure actions prior to this application must be disclosed and may result in the application be denied. Failure to disclose any current or future criminal convictions or licensure actions may result in termination of any approved status (See www.nojos.org).