

# Recovering Sex Offenders Anonymous

## of Greater Denver

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm



### The Need

There is a great need for 12-step recovery and a peer support group for sex offenders. And we are such a group! **Recovering Sex Offenders Anonymous of Greater Denver (RSOA)** meets every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30. To locate our meeting place and other information, call **(303) 525-3524** (the number listed below).

If you are a sex offender or fear that you are capable of becoming one, whether you are in or out of the legal system, you are most warmly urged to join us.

### Who Is a Sex Offender?

Any sexual behavior that violates the laws of our land, or is an offense against society. There are other sexual behaviors that do not break the law, but do offend moral norms and invade the boundaries of others. Some offenses have more serious consequences, not only for the victim but for the perpetrator as well. Basically, our group is made up of men and women whose sexual actions have offended another person.

Our behaviors include those that victimize another. Misdemeanors such as: sexual harassment, exhibitionism, voyeurism, indecent phone calls, and indecent liberties. Also, felonies such as: child molestation, incest, seducing another from a position of trust, and rape. Sex offending may also include so called “victimless crimes” such as prostitution and soliciting prostitutes, where exploitation and victimization are often components.

### We Feel Responsible

We feel a responsibility to stop such behavior, to make amends and restitution to our victims, to not run away from the punishment for our debt to society, and to help others to stop offending.

For most of us, our sex offending is a solitary choice. We act alone, and we sit alone with our remorse after having done so. So, it is understandable that **on our own**, we tried again and again to stop but failed. Within this 12-Step group we find help from a Higher Power embodied in others. We learn to seek spiritual help through surrender, prayer and meditation. We finally learn how to stop. We are no longer alone.

Many of us as children were victims of physical, emotional or sexual abuse. While this may be a contributor to our adult sexual behavior, it is in no way viewed as an excuse. Our recovery involves dealing with those childhood wounds as well as the wounds we have caused others. We work through the Twelve Steps to clean up the wreckage of our past and to establish a spiritual foundation for a life of sexual sobriety and restraint. We feel responsible to serve those who also suffer from the painful consequences of sexual compulsivity and committing sex offences.

### Our Meetings

We use a meeting format patterned after that of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Attendance typically numbers six to twelve, and female sex offenders are welcome. We are a “closed meeting,” meaning that our meetings are only open to those seeking their own personal recovery. The meeting is also non-smoking.

RSOA’s meetings include something that is not a part of other recovery groups, due to the nature of our illegal behavior. It is this clause: <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>“We expect individuals to take full responsibility for offenses they reveal. It is up to each group member to decide what action to take in each individual case, which may result in current offences being reported to the authorities.”



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MEETING-APPROVED 2/2004