

Pre-Conference Seminar (IV)

TEXAS OUTPATIENT CIVIL COMMITMENT PROGRAM

*Presenter: Allison Taylor, Executive Director,
Texas Council on Sex Offender Treatment*

Workshop Description

Texas is the only state that commits sexually violent predators to an outpatient program. Civil Commitment statute of Sexually Violent Predators is civil law under the Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 841. The State has the burden to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the person is a sexually violent predator with a behavioral abnormality (Sec. 841.062). This language is used to narrowly confine the class of sexually violent predators being committed. Civil commitment is different than a criminal charge in that a criminal sentence has a definitive timeframe. Civil commitment continues until it is determined that the person's behavioral abnormality has changed to the extent that the person is no longer likely to engage in a predatory act of sexual violence. The intent of the law is to provide intensive outpatient rehabilitation and treatment to the sexually violent predator.

Learning Objectives:

1. Attendees will gain knowledge regarding the history of the outpatient SVP program
2. Attendees will gain knowledge on Texas commitment process
3. Attendees will gain knowledge on outpatient treatment and supervision
4. Attendees will gain knowledge regarding the comparison between inpatient and outpatient SVP programs

Biography

Allison J. Taylor received her Bachelors of Science from Texas Tech University in 1990. Allison has previous experience at Travis County Sheriffs Department as a Field Training Officer, Texas Department of Criminal Justice as Program Administrator for Super-Intensive Supervision Program and Global Positioning Satellite Systems and Parole Officer, and has been employed with the Council on Sex Offender Treatment as the Executive Director since 2003. She has 12 years experience in the field of managing and containing sex offenders. She has conducted national presentations to the American Legislative Exchange Council and statewide to Sexual Assault Task Forces, Victim Advocacy Agencies, Law Enforcement, and U.S. Federal Probation. Allison has testified as a resource witness to the Texas Senate Criminal Justice Committee and House of Representatives Correction's Committee regarding sex offender legislation. She consulted with State of Louisiana Sexually Violent Predator Legislative Sub-Committee, North Dakota Department of Human Services, New York Health and Human Services, New York Bureau of Research, Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Forensic Mental Health Department, Minnesota Supreme Court, Florida Department of Children and Family, State of Kansas regarding outpatient sexually violent predator treatment program.

She has been interviewed by ABC Primetime, Fox News Live New York, MSMBBC Coast to Coast, Chicago Tribune, New York Times, Texas Monthly, Washington Times, USA Today, Associated Press, and Texas television stations and newspapers regarding the management and containment sex offenders and sexually violent predators. She has published three articles in the Texas District and County Attorney Association: "The Texas Prosecutor" regarding the Texas Sexually Violent Predator Act. She co-authored a K-2nd grade sexual assault prevention program. In 2005, the Governors Commission for Women recognized her as an Outstanding Woman in Texas Government. In 2006, Allison received the Ellen Halbert Award from the Texas Crime Victim's Clearinghouse Conference that recognized a state based program offering exceptional victim sensitivity. She is a member of the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Sex Offender Management Coalition, the American Probation and Parole Association, and the American Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.