

#160769

-----Original Message-----

From: Thomas, Wendy C
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 3:38 PM
To: clerks
Subject: FW: Zoning for sexual offender treatment

For distribution to City Commission as part of Item 160769.
Thanks,
Wendy

-----Original Message-----

From: CLIFF LEVIN [<mailto:cliff.a.levin@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 1, 2018 1:10 PM
To: Thomas, Wendy C <ThomasWC@cityofgainesville.org>
Cc: combehseerv@gmail.com
Subject: Zoning for sexual offender treatment

Over the years Community Behavioral Services has provided sexual offender Group and individual counseling. We have not provided that service for the past 10 years. However I wanted to be on record for reporting that to the best of our knowledge we have never had an incident of a sexual offense in our neighborhood, following a group or individual session. I would hope the City Of Gainesville would make every effort to facilitate treatment for offenders and allow services in various parts of the city. Hopefully there is documentation available as to whether or not sexual offenses have occurred by patients of a sexual offender program In the neighborhood wherein they were treated. If such a documentation indicates that no offenses have taken place after a treatment session then I would not worry about having services occur near other counseling offices that do not provide sexual offender treatment.

Sent from my iPhone: Clifford A Levin, PhD

#160769

Free and Fun
Child and Caregiver Workshop
For children age seven and younger



Super Hero Safety Camp

Sunday, August 6, 2017

The ITM Group

1208 NW 6th Street, Gainesville Florida 32601

10:00 to 11:30

This hour and a half workshop will address the protection of young children under the age of seven with specific tools for parents and children. Children will learn through games and fun activities. Parents will learn how to keep their child safe at home and in the community by teaching and modeling basic boundaries and body respect. Young Super Heroes and hero support team (parents/family) will learn:

- ✦ The myth of stranger-danger
- ✦ Choosing Safe Side Adults
- ✦ The dangers of secrets
- ✦ Avoiding tricks and lures
- ✦ Intro to online safety
- ✦ Practice for children in using their most powerful super hero power

This wellness and safety workshop will be presented by ITM licensed therapists and psychologists with many years of experience in the prevention of sexual abuse and working with children. The ITM Group is a private practice in Gainesville, providing outpatient treatment to children and adults in all areas of mental health, parenting and coaching needs.

 **Newly trained Super Heroes (ages three through seven) will receive a certificate, school supplies, snacks and a drawstring backpack goodie bag.**

 **Be sure to sign up for the raffle. Several lucky ticket holders will win book bags.**



This **free** community event is presented by The ITM Group in collaboration with the University of Florida Child Protection Team

Register only your Super Hero child for the event at <https://superherosafety.eventbrite.com>. Parents/caregivers do not need a ticket, but will need to be at the training site near their child.

Questions? email us at event@itmflorida.com



Free and Fun
Child and Caregiver Workshop
For children age seven and younger



Super Hero Safety Workshop

Sunday, September 16, 2018

The ITM Group

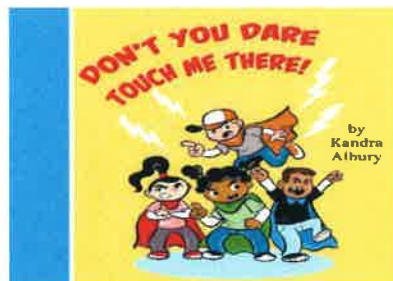
1208 NW 6th Street, Gainesville Florida 32601

9:30 (registration) to 11:00

This workshop will address the protection of young children under the age of seven with specific tools for parents and children. Children will learn through games and fun activities. Parents will learn how to keep their child safe at home and in the community by teaching and modeling basic boundaries and body respect. Young Super Heroes and hero support team (parents/family) will learn:

- ✓ The myth of stranger-danger
- ✓ Choosing Safe Side Adults
- ✓ The dangers of secrets
- ✓ Avoiding tricks and lures
- ✓ Intro to online safety
- ✓ Practice for children in using their most powerful super hero power

This wellness and safety workshop will be presented by ITM psychologist Jennifer Sager, Ph.D and well-known children's author Kandra C. Albury. Ms. Albury will read from her book *Don't You Dare Touch Me There*. ITM therapists have many years of experience in the prevention of sexual abuse and working with children. The ITM Group is a private practice in Gainesville, providing outpatient treatment to children and adults in all areas of mental health, parenting and coaching needs. Kandra C. Albury is President and CEO of Kids'n Capes.



This **free** community event is presented by The ITM Group in collaboration with the University of Florida Child Protection Team

Register only your Super Hero child for the event at <https://superhero-safety.eventbrite.com>.

Parents/caregivers do not need a ticket, but will need to be at the training site near their child.

Questions? email us at event@itmflorida.com



The New York Times <https://nyti.ms/2eTP1pK>

Opinion | OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

When Junk Science About Sex Offenders Infects the Supreme Court

By DAVID FEIGE SEPT. 12, 2017

This month the Supreme Court will have a rare opportunity to correct a flawed doctrine that for the past two decades has relied on junk social science to justify punishing more than 800,000 Americans. Two cases that the court could review concern people on the sex offender registry and the kinds of government control that can constitutionally be imposed upon them.

In *Snyder v. Doe*, the court could consider whether Michigan's broad scheme of regulating sex offenders constitutes "punishment." The other case, *Karsjens v. Piper*, examines the constitutionality of Minnesota's policy of detaining sex offenders forever — not for what they've done, but for what they might do.

And while the idea of indefinite preventive detention might sound un-American or something out of the film "Minority Report," the larger problem is that "civil commitment," like hundreds of other regulations imposed on those required to register, has been justified by assertions about the recidivism of sex offenders. But those assertions turn out to be entirely belied by science.

For the past 24 years, Minnesota has detained sex offenders released from prison in a "therapeutic program" conveniently located on the grounds of a

A few years ago, Ira Ellman, a legal scholar affiliated with the Center for the Study of Law and Society at the University of California, Berkeley, and the researcher Tara Ellman set out to find the source of that 80 percent figure, and what he found shocked him. As it turns out, the court found that number in a brief signed by Solicitor General Ted Olson. The brief cited a Department of Justice manual, which in turn offered only one source for the 80 percent assertion: a *Psychology Today* article published in 1986.

That article was written not by a scientist but by a treatment provider who claimed to be able to essentially cure sex offenders through innovative “aversive therapies” including electric shocks and pumping ammonia into offenders’ noses via nasal cannulas. The article offered no backup data, no scientific control group and no real way to fact-check any of the assertions made to promote the author’s program.

Nonetheless, because that 80 percent figure suited the government lawyers’ aim of cracking down on sex offenders, Solicitor General Olson cited it, and Justice Anthony Kennedy, seemingly without fact-checking it, adopted the figure in a 2002 opinion that Justices William Rehnquist, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas joined. (Justice Sandra Day O’Connor concurred.) Their decision blew open the doors to the glut of sex offender restrictions that followed.

But in the 30 years since that *Psychology Today* article was published, there have been hundreds of evidence-based, scientific studies on the question of the recidivism rate for sex offenders. The results of those studies are astonishingly consistent: Convicted sex offenders have among the lowest rates of same-crime recidivism of any category of offender.

Nearly every study — including those by states as diverse as Alaska, Nebraska, Maine, New York and California — as well as an extremely broad one by the federal government that followed every offender released in the United States for three years, has put the three-year recidivism rate for convicted sex offenders in the low single digits, with the bulk of the results clustering around 3.5 percent. Needless to say, there is a tremendous difference between claiming that 80 percent of offenders will re-offend and that more than 95 percent of them won’t. And it is in that basic difference that the Supreme Court’s doctrine has done its most lasting damage.

and one patient has been released in 24 years, not zero. The article also described the academic affiliation of Ira Ellman incorrectly. He is an affiliated scholar at the Center for the Study of Law and Society at the University of California, Berkeley, and an emeritus law professor at Arizona State University; he is not a law professor at Berkeley.

David Feige, a television writer and a former public defender in the Bronx, is the director of “**Untouchable**,” a feature documentary about sex offender laws.

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Ordinance Overkill

We as a society have a “not in my backyard” mentality towards offenders. Meaning, we only worry about the offender who lives in our neighborhood. We don’t think of the one who lives in the neighborhood or city next to us. That’s someone else’s problem, not mine. There has been a steady increase in popularity with these ordinances which mandate residency restrictions and now in our case treatment location restrictions for Sex Offenders. These ordinances are being promoted as a way to keep our kids safe. The specific restriction of Sexual Offender treatment office locations is almost unprecedented in the entire United States. The initial proposed ordinance was unanimously rejected by the appointed City of Gainesville Planning Board, which is charged with making recommendations to the City Commission of elected officials.

A 2002 article by Freud and Krug brings the present ordinance and its restrictions into perspective, “overcorrecting a problem is a frequent tendency in our society, that sometimes escalates the very transgressions against which the new rules are supposed to protect us from.”

The proposed new city ordinance regarding Sex Offender Treatment Centers is built on the idea of residency restrictions which were developed on the basis of the following false assumptions that (1) registered sex offenders are a high risk for recidivism, (2) sexual crimes are committed by strangers who lurk in areas where children congregate in an attempt to stereotypically abduct them, (3) all sexual offenders have committed crimes against children, (4) children and families are protected from sexual crimes if a registered sexual offender does not live in their neighborhood.

(Sexual Offender Laws and Prevention of Sexual Violence or Recidivism. [Kelly K. Bonnar-Kidd, PhD.](#))

This false sense of security gained from the passage of such laws allows the community to be fooled and not alert to the primary threat that does exist by those 93% of people known to the child victim who actually commit these new offenses.☒

In spite of the overwhelming research, some residency restrictions have withstood court scrutiny. But American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lawyer Adam Tebrugge said courts lately have given the restrictions closer scrutiny. State and federal courts have overturned such laws in California and Michigan.

Do Residence Restrictions Help or Hinder Recidivism/Treatment? The unintended consequences of residence restrictions include transience, homelessness, and instability. Offenders are often pushed to areas that are more rural (the higher the population density the more likely neighborhoods include schools, parks, etc.). These conditions can lead to:

- diminished access to specialized treatment and probationary supervision,
- employment and housing disruption, and
- separation from supportive and/or dependent family members.

These factors can hinder effective treatment and may interfere with the overall goal of reducing recidivism and re-victimization. In fact, unemployment, unstable housing, and lack of support are associated with increased criminal recidivism. Thus, residence restrictions, aimed at improving community safety, may inadvertently create an environment in which offenders are more at risk to reoffend.

<http://www.csom.org/pubs/ATSA%20Residence%20Restrictions.pdf>