

The Role of the Polygraph in the Assessment and Treatment of Sexual Offenders

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This workshop will explore the potential contribution of polygraph examinations in the treatment of sexual offenders. The workshop will begin with a discussion of theory and data related to the validity of different kinds of polygraph examination. Polygraph examinations will be considered in the context of other ways of assessing credibility. The workshop will then explore ways in which polygraph examinations may contribute to the accurate identification of treatment needs, to the open discussion of problems during treatment, and to the assessment and therapeutic processing of current functioning. Its strengths and weaknesses in relation to each of these tasks will be discussed and ways in which its strengths may be enhanced and its weaknesses limited will be suggested.