

## **Use of polygraph method in dealing with sex offenders**

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In spite of methodological differences that prevent direct comparison between different studies, results indicate a significantly high degree of recidivism in perpetrators of sexual abuse of children. The dynamics, genesis and aetiology of child sexual abuse are explained by a number of theories. Recent concepts take multifactor explanations into consideration. It is assumed that at least one of the following characteristics is typical of these offenders: an urgent need to be in contact with children, sexual arousal during these contacts, inability and/or inefficiency in making satisfactory contacts with adults and weakened self-control. Common typologies of offenders, which are often based on the characteristics of victims, were recently confronted with new research findings. Psychophysiological examination of the veracity of statements obtained by polygraph analysis was used in the process of explaining and discovering the sexual experiences and practices of perpetrators. By the use of the polygraph method, it was discovered for each perpetrator on average an additional 163 (not yet known) victims, 504 undetected criminal offences of sexual abuse and 4 additional cases of paraphilia. Through the use of the polygraph method, professionals came to recognize and managed to explain the crossover effect in perpetrators of sexual offences. Examination and confirmation of a crossover effect point to the applicability of psychophysiological examination of the veracity of statements obtained by polygraph, not only in terms of diagnosis, but also in cognitive terms.

**Keywords:** sexual offences, offender, victim, children's rights, crossover effect, forensic psychophysiology, polygraph method

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