

Female Offender Types

(Excerpt from *How to Work With Sex Offenders* By Rudy Flora)

Matthews (1998) notes three types of female offenders: (1) a teacher-lover, who becomes involved with a minor male; (2) the predisposed, a victim also, who acts out her molestation with children; (3) the male-coerced, who sexually abuses children with a male companion, either in or out of the home.

The teacher-lover female offender becomes involved in a relationship with a child as the result of a combination of interactions that eventually leads to a sexual relationship. These encounters usually are not forcible; the victim usually becomes supportive of the relationship. This type of offender may have power over the victim, and hold a position of authority in some form. Victims tend to be acquaintances, male, and are preadolescent or adolescent. The initial incident may not be planned, but later actions are organized and scheduled.

The predisposed offender may display paraphilia interests. Many of these female offenders have a history of victimization themselves. The offending may be seen as a reenactment of their sexual abuse. The target population may be the offender's own children. A number of these victims may be female, and can be preadolescent or adolescent in age. This type of offense is usually preceded by fantasy acting out. Most incidents are planned to some degree and follow a sexual abuse cycle pattern. Force is sometimes reported if the victim is reluctant to comply.

Male-coerced female offenders are involved in a relationship with an adult, either a husband or companion. Substance abuse may be involved during the sexual assault. These female offenders are encouraged by the companion to engage in sexual relations with a child. Usually the adult male will observe the offense or engage during a part of the sexual assault. Target victims may be female or male, are preadolescent or adolescent, and can be a family member,

acquaintance, or even a stranger. The initial offense can be unplanned by the offender, who has been manipulated by the companion. Additional offenses can be planned or scheduled., with some resistance or reluctance on the part of the female offender. Force and coercion may be used by the adult male companion on the female offender.

Reference:

Mathews, J.K. (1998). An 11-year perspective of working with female sex offenders. In W.L. Marshall, Y.M. Fernandez, S.M. Hudson, and T. Ward, *Sourcebook of treatment programs for sexual offenders* (pp. 259-272). New York: Plenum Press.