

## **Treatment Milestones Necessary for Reunification**

- ✓ All family members must have acknowledged the abuse and must understand the importance of holding the young person accountable.
- ✓ Adult family members must fully understand the ways in which they failed to protect their children. Examples include if the juvenile sex offender was sexually abused prior to his/her own offending behavior or if the juvenile sex offender offended against other children in the family.
- ✓ The victim must have a support system and must be able to talk openly about the abuse with the therapist and parent or caretaker.
- ✓ The offender must have identified his/her offending thoughts, feelings and behaviors, discussed high risk situations, grooming behavior and safety plans with all family members or caretakers.
- ✓ The offender must understand the damage resulting from his offenses and have made, in the therapist's estimation, a sincere apology to the victim.
- ✓ The parents or caretakers must not minimize or trivialize the offensive behavior and must be committed to the supervision necessary when the young offender re-enters the home.
- ✓ Parents and caretakers must understand how their own history, sexual beliefs, and experiences impact their child's safety and recovery.
- ✓ The family or caretakers must have established physical and personal boundaries for family members.
- ✓ Concurrent diagnostic problems such as substance abuse or psychiatric disorders must have been treated.
- ✓ The family must utilize therapy or other community resources freely and must be expanding their network of extra-familial support.
- ✓ The family or caretakers must have openly developed a safety plan which includes direct instruction for children to report future offending and names extra-familial adults to whom reports can be made. The family should be able to identify possible early indicators of abuse and should be invited to return to treatment if needed.
- ✓ All family members must understand that the potential for re-offending exists.