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4-18-2000

# Juvenile Sex Offenders: Is Treatment Possible in Fort Wayne, Indiana

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## Recommended Citation

Holly R. Castiaux-Logan (2000). *Juvenile Sex Offenders: Is Treatment Possible in Fort Wayne, Indiana*.  
[http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu\\_symp2000/31](http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp2000/31)

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## JUVENILE SEX OFFENDERS: IS TREATMENT POSSIBLE IN FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

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The rise of sex crimes by children against children is no longer America's best kept family secret. Studies have suggested that sexual aggression may be linked to past abuse. National data suggests that most juvenile sex offenders are responsive to treatment if provided with specialized therapy. This study looks into the treatment for juvenile sex offenders in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A survey was distributed to five agencies working with children and juveniles in Fort Wayne in 1998. The study indicates that there is a need to develop a facility for juvenile sex offenders to facilitate the treatment process and provide appropriate treatment interventions so that juvenile sex offending does not become part of a vicious cycle. A sex offending treatment facility would offer a better understanding of the differences between the groups of juvenile sex offenders and would provide guidance regarding appropriate sanctions and treatment. Treatment developed for the individual needs of juvenile sex offenders could result in a reduction in sex offending and reoffending, ultimately reducing the number of individuals entering the juvenile justice systems.