

Eleven year old Suzy sat on the front porch, shoulder to shoulder, with her twelve year old friend, Tommy. Tommy's grandma looked out her front door and saw them from behind. She reported Suzy for sexual abuse, and now, Suzy must attend court-ordered sex offender therapy. Suzy doesn't understand what the therapy is about; she doesn't understand what she did wrong.

Sixteen year old Sandy accused her fifteen year old cousin, Robby, of brutally raping her three times. Robby took and passed three lie detector tests denying the rape. The judge threw him into jail to scare him into making a confession. He finally accepted a plea bargain. Robby then made up a story to 'confess' during his court-ordered sex offender therapy, a story that matched his cousin's account of the rape. The State gave him another polygraph and, sticking to his made up story, he flunked. They revoked his probation and threw him in jail for flunking the polygraph. Oh, by the way, cousin Sandy's hymen was intact.

While in a foster home (a supposedly safe haven), taken from his family based on false allegations of child abuse, fourteen year old Randy was forced, upon pain of injury, to perform oral sex on an older male foster child. He was subsequently charged with a sexual offense and ordered into sex offender therapy - not victim's therapy. The other boy was not charged with anything.

I regret to inform you that these are true stories. Children are being 'treated' in increasing numbers for sex offenses that are either non-existent, the result of victimization, or a normal part of growing up - such as 'playing doctor.'

Young children will explore each other's anatomy. It is a normal part of growing up. I remember when I was teaching gymnastics to young children in the seventies, a little boy in my class 'showed his' to a little girl. I told his mom. Mom took him home and told him we don't do that. End of story. No further problems in class. The boy was not a sexual predator, he was just curious.

Today, that child is whisked into sex offender therapy regardless of his age or intent. Children are arrested and interrogated without mom or dad or even an attorney present. As a child, they have no rights. Mom and dad can't even protect them from what is about to happen to them. Many children never recover from the trauma and carry the resultant anger with them into adulthood.

Don't get me wrong, increasing numbers of children are sexual predators. I believe this is due to their exposure to adult sexuality on computers, television, music videos, movies and pornography. This is a clear example of how you can 'sexualize' a child too young with devastating effects. It is my opinion that sex offender therapy accomplishes the same thing.

In sex offender therapy, they are *forced* to confront sexual issues in an adult context, many times before they are able to comprehend sexual issues in an adult context. If it is a young child, they aren't usually playing 'sex' games, they're playing 'anatomy' games. But the system is forcing them to address 'anatomy' as 'sex' at a time when the two are rightfully mutually exclusive. Older children who are innocent, are worse off. They must ADMIT to a sex offense in order to successfully complete their 'treatment.'

We have gone from the sexually prudish Fifties, through the sexually permissive Sixties and have ended up in the sexually paranoid Nineties

In the Fifties, sex was hardly a public word, much less a public act. If Johnny played doctor with Suzy and they got caught, they probably both got punished. This had the effect of

inhibiting sexual and anatomical exploration for a time. When puberty reared its insistent head, the public morality deemed that sex was forbidden outside of marriage, another inhibiting factor. Children were sexually inhibited while they were still too emotionally immature to deal with sexual issues, which proved to a protective mechanism. There were relatively few sex offenders, and virtually none among children.

In the Sixties, the mentality shifted to 'free love.' People were encourage to explore their sexuality as a good thing. Divorce and illegitimacy rose. This progressed to more open homosexuality, a rise in incurable sexually transmitted diseases, and a rise in sex offenses.

Now, in the Nineties, sex sells. Homosexuals display their deviancies in public, adult sex is acted out in public movie theaters, on our television screens during prime time and played out on our computers upon demand. Our entire society is sexualized with the focus on sexual stimulation and gratification. Our inhibitions have vanished and, consequently, we are threatened with sex offenders around every corner, some more legitimate than others. This paranoia has caused our society to lose all common sense, and we see sex crimes where they don't even exist - with innocent children accused as perpetrators.

I constantly hear these stories from distraught parents and children. I don't know how many children are falsely jailed, or how many more are under 'treatment' for so-called 'sex offenses' but even one child is one too many. To do so as routinely as we do, is a national shame.

The perpetrators of this shame are those whose livelihood is derived from the perpetuation of these abuses: Therapists, social workers, judges. The self-proclaimed, self-righteous of society.

They don't look so righteous to me. In my book, there can be no legitimate justification for punishing and traumatizing innocent children. I guess I'm just not enlightened enough to understand otherwise.