

# SEX AND JUSTICE

# **SEX AND JUSTICE: WHAT YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES NEED TO KNOW IF ACCUSED OF A SEX OFFENSE**

By Andrea M. Hall

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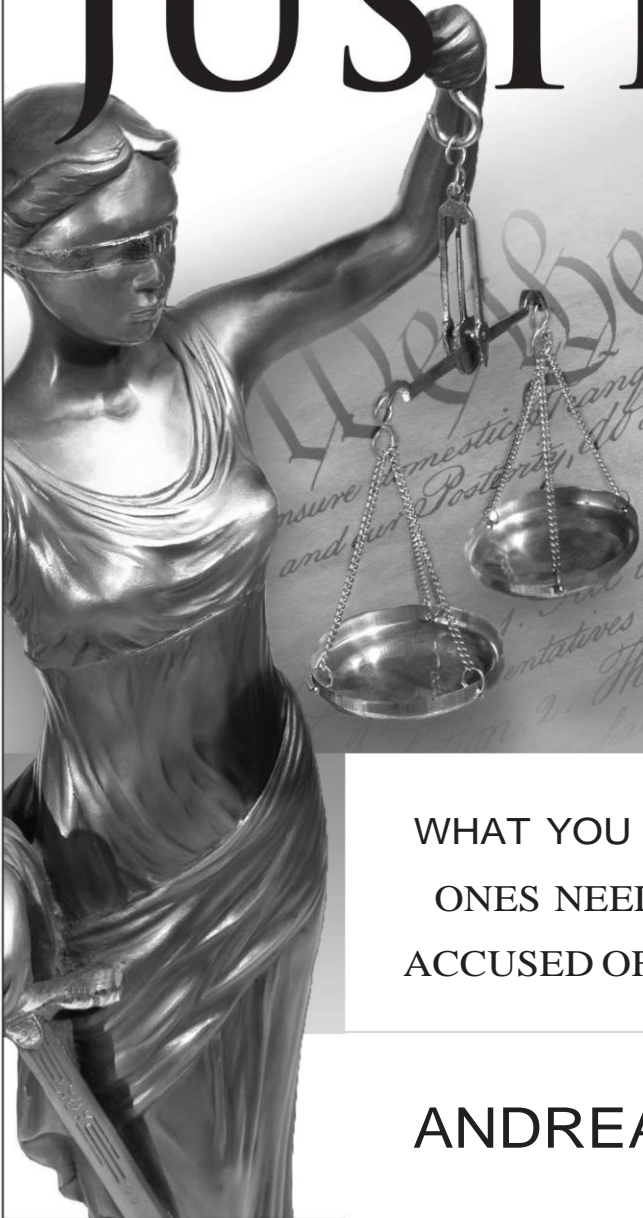
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# Sex and JUSTICE



WHAT YOU & YOUR LOVED  
ONES NEED TO KNOW IF  
ACCUSED OF A SEX OFFENSE

ANDREA M. HALL



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This book is dedicated to my mentor Joseph “Andy” Gavaldon who supported me when my whole journey began as a criminal defense attorney in 2005. He took me under his wing and taught me all that I needed to know and discover about the criminal justice system. I will forever be thankful for his support, encouragement and pursuit to uphold the constitution and fight for his belief in justice.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	9
<b>CHAPTER 1:</b> Why your Freedom Matters to Me .....	11
<b>CHAPTER 2:</b> Sexual Offense Laws, Local and National.....	15
<b>CHAPTER 3:</b> What Happens When You Are Arrested and What to Do Next .....	23
<b>CHAPTER 4:</b> Everything you Need to Know About Bail and Bonds .....	33
<b>CHAPTER 5:</b> What to Expect When Entering a Plea and Possibly Going to Trial .....	41
<b>CHAPTER 6:</b> Life After a Plea or Conviction of a Sex Offense Crime .....	51
<b>CHAPTER 7:</b> How A Sex Offense Conviction Impacts Your Family Life and Children .....	63
<b>CHAPTER 8:</b> Innocence; Is There Such a Thing in the Legal System?.....	69
Top Five Things to Know About Sex Offense Crimes in Colorado .....	73
Acknowledgments .....	75
Appendix: The Court System.....	79
Resources.....	85
Glossary.....	87





## INTRODUCTION

What comes to mind when someone says the word sex offender? A creepy old man with dark, rundown house? An overly-friendly male with a van? Someone in the clergy? The truth is, people of all ages, races and walks of life can be found guilty of a sex offense and required to register as a sex offender. It can be the guy next door as easily as the young woman walking down the street.

Today it's easier than ever to be accused of a sexual offense, and here's why. Information can be made public by the click of a button. Laws related to technology also change quickly, making privacy boundaries unclear. Lastly, there is confusion on a government level regarding what personal details are actually considered protected and private.

My book **Sex and Justice: What you and your loved ones need to know if accused of a sex offense**, gets to the truth and offers seasoned legal knowledge and practical tools you or a loved one will hopefully never need. It's an essential resource in understanding your rights and what might happen if you are accused or convicted of a sexual offense, and fighting for freedom.

This book gives you a range of information about the legal system and how to make sure you have a knowledgeable lawyer that can help you get your life back. It includes:

- › Clear definitions of a sexual offense under Colorado law
- › What to expect when you are arrested, go to court or possibly to trial
- › All the long-term implications and requirements if convicted of a sex offense
- › New limitations imposed on daily activities
- › Your rights throughout the legal process, especially when it comes to defending yourself or protecting your family

## CHAPTER 1

# Why your Freedom Matters to Me

**I've dealt with all aspects of sex offense crimes in ways I never expected.**

At a young age while at the local babysitter's house, I became a victim of inappropriate sexual touching — something no child or person should ever have to go through. This traumatic encounter was painful for so many reasons, and an experience I didn't expect to come face-to-face with ever again, until the summer of my 18th birthday.

That year I was called for jury duty — the one and only jury trial I've ever served on in my life. I had just graduated from high school and figured it would be no big deal; it's a civic duty we all have to fulfill as citizens of this country. Little did I know the trial would be about a man accused of touching two small boys.

I thought for sure that being a victim would take me out of the running as an eligible jury member immediately. I was

wrong. I spent that summer of my 18th birthday serving on the jury, deciding this man's fate.

When the trial was wrapping up and we "the jury" were deliberating on the specific charges for the accused, things started getting uncomfortable. People were complaining; "I want to go home, the room is hot, the food is terrible, I'm missing my kids' soccer game...". The overall feeling in the room was pretty hostile and felt a lot like the movie scene in *12 Angry Men*! Fellow jurors wanted to wrap things up quickly, but I had some reservations.

I knew, based on my own experience, there were certain types of details the boys should have been able to recall in order to help build a credible case for a guilty verdict. To this day I can still tell you what I was wearing, the smells, what was happening and who was around during the personal confrontation with my abuser. However, my fellow jurors told me over and over again that I was young, didn't know what I was talking about, and they did not agree at all with my opinion on the scarcity of the facts. Finally, the group pressure became a bit much and I caved, agreeing to move forward with a guilty verdict.

When the verdict was announced, I almost threw up in the jury box. I was unable to look the defendant in the face, and I knew I had just ruined the man's life *forever*. In my heart-of-hearts I knew he was *not guilty*. I could have hung the jury

and I didn't. I was unable to stand up for myself. To this day it bothers me that I made a decision I can never go back and change.

So, as a result of my personal experiences, I have chosen to specialize in representing people, mostly men, accused of sex offense crimes.

There are not many women who do this type of work. I know the jury wonders what I know, that they might not know, about the person being accused of such a heinous crime. In fact, sex offense cases are some of the most difficult to defend because when someone on the jury hears the words "sex offense", they often automatically assume guilt. That's what makes my work even more important to me.

People are supposed to be innocent until proven guilty, in theory, yet in my world, people are guilty 'til I prove them NOT! That is why I wrote this book; to provide people with the knowledge and tools to defend themselves to the best of their ability, having the insights of seasoned counsel in their corner from day one. With the power of knowledge as your guide, you have the best chance possible to fight for your life.