

# Cyber Times

Spring/Summer 2008

Official Newsletter of Internet Behavior Consulting

## Did you know?

- An estimated 100,000 websites contain child pornography.
- The child pornography industry is valued at three billion dollars.
- 200,000 new child porn images are posted on the Internet each week.
- Estimates of child porn viewers who have hands-on offenses range from 12% to 85%.
- One of every 25 online youth receive sexual solicitations that include attempts to meet offline.
- The average age of first exposure to online pornography is 11 years old.

## IBC Events

**February 11, 2008** – Cybercrime Symposium; U.S. Pretrial and Federal Probation; Long Beach, CA

**April 9, 2008** – Minnesota Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers; Minneapolis, MN

**April 16, 2008** – Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet: A Presentation for Students & Parents; Annapolis, MD

**May 30, 2008** – Cybersex and the Christian Community; St. John Vianney Center; Downingtown, PA

**June 4, 2008** – Annual Yankton Mental Health Wellness Conference; Yankton, SD

**September 18, 2008** – Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health; Sexual Offenders: Online and Offline; Boston, MA

**October 22, 2008** – Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers; Internet Sex Offenders: Who are they?; Atlanta, GA

IBC also engages in various legal case consultations and provides expert witness testimony across the United States.

For additional information, please visit our website at:  
<http://www.internetbehavior.com>

## IBC Creates White Paper on Cybersex Offenders



As a result of numerous calls to Internet Behavior Consulting, IBC has created a “white paper” to discuss common issues associated with cybersex offense behavior.

The focus of the white paper is online child pornography and hands-on offense behavior. Even with similarities between online and offline sex offenders, there are a number of special considerations in child pornography cases where there is an absence of a hands-on offense history.

The white paper discusses issues such as the risk to community posed by a child pornography user, and issues to consider when addressing amenability to mental health treatment. These factors are based on current research and literature in the field of sexual offense behavior.

Basic concepts regarding Internet Psychology, the way people think, feel, and behave online, are also included. Such concepts can lay the foundation for special considerations in child pornography cases since the online environment can disinhibit an individual’s judgment and behavior.

Many courts rely on the traditional view of sexual offenders to conceptualize and sentence online sex offenders without considering the possibility that there may be important mitigating factors to consider in cybersex offense cases. A more contemporary typology would include a separate category of “Internet sex offenders” who may have distinct differences from the more typical offline sex offender.

Educating courts regarding online sexual offense behavior, technology issues, and psychological concepts can be important both during a trial and during the sentencing phase.

## Role Playing versus Simple Deception

In cases involving traveling to meet a child with sexual intent, many defendants claim they believed they were role playing with an adult, not a an actual child. While this defense may be feasible, there are certain considerations in determining if “child play” was occurring. A sample of some questions to consider include:

- Was the chat room’s intent to role play?
- Was there an agreement between participants to engage in sex role play?
- Did participants ever come out of their assigned roles?
- Were there efforts to shape, extend, or enhance the role play?

There is often confusion between online sex role play and another concept called “simple deception.” Simple deception involves distorting, exaggerating, or denying certain demographic characteristics about oneself, typically to appear more attractive to the other person.

It is these types of distinctions that can help attorneys, judges, and juries understand concepts relevant to online sexual behaviors. Internet Behavior Consulting is committed to helping the judicial system better understand online sexual offense.



# Common Consultation Question

*My client has been arrested for an online sexual offense? Is he a pedophile?*

*-Criminal Defense Attorney*

The answer to this question is complex, but the bottom line is not to assume that because someone has been arrested for a sexual offense against a child that they are a pedophile. Another common assumption is that everyone who is charged with committing a sexual offense involving a child is a sexually violent predator.

These assumptions are often applied to individuals charged with an

Internet sex crime. However, new typologies distinguish Internet sex offenders from their offline counterpart — an important distinction to make.

The term “pedophile” is a mental health diagnosis, not a legal term. Educating those in the judicial system about mental health issues is critical. Understanding the differences between pedophiles, child molesters (those who have a hands-on offense), and internet offenders, can assist juries and judges in formulating more accurate characterizations about an individual’s problematic sexual behavior.

An additional term that is often not recognized is “hebephile.” This term refers to individuals who have primary sexual attraction to post-pubescent males or females. This distinction is important, since sexual attraction towards adolescents may be considered differently than attraction towards pre-pubescent children.

Specific assessments can be conducted to help determine if the client has primary interest and arousal toward children, adolescents, or adults. If your defendant is charged with a cybersex offense, this type of evaluation should be given consideration.



*“The term pedophile is a mental health diagnosis, not a legal term.”*

## Internet Offender Resources

[www.internetbehavior.com](http://www.internetbehavior.com)  
[www-usr.rider.edu/~suler/psycyber](http://www-usr.rider.edu/~suler/psycyber)  
[www.kbsolutions.com](http://www.kbsolutions.com)  
[www.netaddiction.com](http://www.netaddiction.com)  
[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)  
[www.copine.ie](http://www.copine.ie)  
[www.unh.edu/ccrc](http://www.unh.edu/ccrc)  
[www.atsa.com](http://www.atsa.com)  
[www.abelscreening.com](http://www.abelscreening.com)  
[www.btimonarch.com](http://www.btimonarch.com)

## Legal Services Offered by IBC

**Legal Case Review**— IBC reviews all documents/discovery related to the case, conduct necessary research, and generate a report that includes central issues (technological and psychological), case strengths and weaknesses, overall impressions, recommendations, and resources.

**Expert Witness Testimony**— IBC provides expert witness testimony in criminal cases involving illegal online sexual behavior. Provide educational testimony to judge/jury to ensure a basic understanding of issues commonly related online sexual offense behavior (e.g., online methods/venues, online disinhibition, etc.). Testimony can be provided during trial and/or sentencing hearings.

**Comprehensive Evaluation**— IBC includes full psychosexual clinical interview conducted by Ms. Griffin. May also include psychological assessments, penile plethysmographs, polygraph examinations, Abel Screens, and other relevant evaluation tools as deemed necessary. These additional testing services will be provided by other experts but ultimately combined into a single evaluation report including overall impressions and recommendations. (IBC does not provide services for custody cases.)

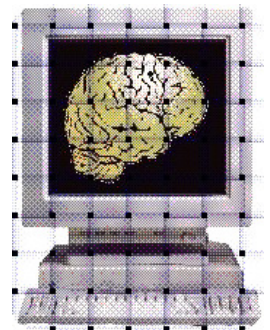
*“IBC is committed to helping the judicial system better understand online sexual offense.”*

## Contacting IBC

Internet Behavior Consulting has two main offices located in the United States. Below is contact information for each office. You may also wish to visit the IBC website for more information on the company or a complete vita for David Delmonico and Elizabeth Griffin. IBC also maintains a network of experts across the country to assist in difficult cases. Visit the IBC website for a selected list of our consultant network.

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