

Referral Form

Please see program info and applicant criteria below

Date		E-mail	
Referring Agency		Address	
Contact Person		Phone	

Client Information:

Name	
DOB	
Facility	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

Release & Supervision Details:

Risk/Needs Information:

Has s/he been convicted of a sexual offence?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Offense, and length of sentence; what city:	
Level of risk to reoffend sexually?	Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/>
Level of Support? (select from drop-down menu)	Choose an item.
Special needs?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Please elaborate on special needs	
Where will s/he reside upon release (add contact info)?	

Release Information:

Type of release (select from drop-down menu)	Choose an item.	Release Date:
Please specify 'Other' type of release		
Warrant Expiry Date (dd/mm/yr)		
Type of supervision?		
Supervision completion date		
Name of Supervisor in community		
Contact info for Supervising Officer		

Additional Comments (feel free to elaborate – use additional paper if necessary):

CoSA In a Nutshell

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) is a community-based **voluntarily** reintegration program designed to support people newly released from prison who have been incarcerated for committing sexual offenses and seek CoSA's help to develop a meaningful life and prevent further offending. CoSA-Ottawa is one of over 30 cities in Canada operating CoSA. CoSA aims to prevent further sexual victimization through accountability by assisting the person to find his/her place in the community as a responsible and productive citizen.

Approved applicants, who we refer to as Core Members (CM), are assigned to three to five volunteers – (extra)ordinary citizens from the community who are trained and screened and, along with the core member, commit to being involved in CoSA for a minimum period of one year (which is renewable). The 'circle' meets as a group and individually (with the core member) on a regular basis to navigate the CM's life challenges, assist with practical needs like finding a doctor, safe and affordable housing, employment; celebrate successes; and help the CM develop a meaningful, crime-free life. The more a core member invests, being open and honest with their volunteers and CoSA staff, the more they'll benefit from the experience and, potentially, will be more successful reintegrating in the community.

CoSA-Ottawa **does not** approve an applicant prior to being sentenced or appearing before the Parole Board as it is not CoSA's role to affect early release or length of sentence. It is CoSA's role to provide assistance once in the community, however it is ideal to begin working with an applicant prior to release to assist in preparations to return to community, so apply as early as you like.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

CoSA applicants are assessed for suitability using the following criteria:

- Has been convicted of a sexual offense(s) and admits to having committed a sexual offence(s);
- Has been incarcerated in the federal or provincial system;
- May be held to Warrant Expiry Date (to the end of sentence) or released at Statutory Release Date, and possibly (but not necessarily) will also be subject to a Long-Term Supervision Order at WED;
- Has been assessed as posing a moderate to high-risk to re-offend sexually;
- Has high-needs (e.g.: socially, emotionally, physically, etc.);
- Has little or no support in the community;
- Agrees to share his/her correctional file and to allow CoSA staff open communication with treating professionals with CoSA-Ottawa by signing a Consent Form;
- Agrees to voluntarily enter into a supportive relationship with volunteers including sharing offense history and communicating openly with them in order to identify offense triggers and to avoid lapses and re-offenses;
- Demonstrates an interest to continue in counselling or other programs in the community such as relapse prevention, anger management, trauma recovery, as recommended by his professionals.

Please mail the completed for to:

Susan Love, CoSA Ottawa Executive Director
211 Bronson Ave, Unit 207A, Ottawa, ON K1R 6H5

Or email to: slove@cosa-ottawa.ca