

Inmate Con-games



Nevada Department
of Corrections



Why Do Inmates Play Games?

- ▶ Favors or privileges for themselves
- ▶ To blackmail an employee
- ▶ Stature among the inmates
- ▶ To get contraband in or out of the facility
- ▶ Escape plot



No Respect!

Once an employee falls victim to an inmate scheme, he/she loses all respect with the other inmates who may also demand favors of their own since the word will spread quickly through the facility that the employee has been compromised.



Protective Measures

- ▶ Look and act like a professional
- ▶ Have a working knowledge of the department's and facilities' policies and procedures
- ▶ Know that it can happen to anyone



How the Game is Started

- ▶ The employee does a favor for an inmate or vice versa
- ▶ Once the employee is hooked, the inmate **WILL** escalate the demand
- ▶ Threatening the employee with exposure if he/she does not cooperate



Family and Friends

- ▶ The employee must act toward this inmate as he/she does toward all the other inmates
- ▶ When the new inmate comes into the facility, the employee should report the relationship at once to a supervisor



Minority Employee's

- ▶ Employee's must reinforce that all inmates are treated the same, regardless of race, etc
- ▶ Any attempts by inmates to call the employee "brother", or "sister" should be viewed as inappropriate comments



Stopping the Game

- ▶ If you're hooked, you can still stop it
 - report everything that has happened to a supervisor
 - make a written report of everything that took place



Protectors

- ▶ Understand the definition of a “professional” and strive to act and perform your duties as one every day
- ▶ Learn to recognize the steps to a setup and take appropriate action to prevent such steps from occurring



Protectors

- ▶ Understand the communication consists of a sender and receiver
- ▶ Learn to say “NO” and mean it
- ▶ Be in command of your area



Protectors

- ▶ Check the inmate's central file
- ▶ Be knowledgeable of prior institution/agency procedures relating to avenues confined people can pursue to acquire needs not covered in the institutional policy manual or post orders



Protectors

- ▶ Keep everything in the open
- ▶ Do not form a “**You/Me**” situation
- ▶ Intended victims should let someone know they feel or believe they are being cultivated for a setup and let the inmate involved know you told someone



Protectors

- ▶ Put it in writing
- ▶ Know what to do in a crisis situation



“CHUMPS”

▶ What is a “CHUMP”!

■ Meaning:

▶ A person who is gullible and easy to take advantage of

■ Classified under:

▶ Nouns denoting people



“CHUMPS”

- **Synonyms:**

- ▶ chump; fall guy; gull; patsy; soft touch; sucker; fool; mug; mark

- **Hypernyms ("chump" is a kind of...):**

- ▶ dupe; victim (a person who is tricked or swindled)



“CHUMPS”

- ▶ **C** = Control yourself and do not be complacent
- ▶ **H** = Help inmates to help themselves
- ▶ **U** = Understand the offenders subculture and understand yourself
- ▶ **M** = Maintain a safe distance
- ▶ **P** = Practice professionalism in adhering to policies and procedures
- ▶ **S** = Stop yourself from being stressed out so you are not vulnerable

ANATOMY OF A SET-UP



**THE
STING**

TURN OUTS →

THE
LEVER

THE SHOPPING LIST

THE RUMOR
CLINIC

THE TOUCH SYSTEM

ALLUSIONS
TO SEX

OFFER OF PROTECTION

THE WE / THEY
SYNDROME

THE PLEA FOR HELP

EMPATHY AND/OR
SYMPATHY

THE SUPPORT SYSTEM

TEST OF LIMITS
AND FISH TESTING

SELECTION OF THE VICTIM

**FROM START TO FINISH,
THE PROCESS IS PRECISELY
CALCULATED AND TIMED**

**TOOLS OF A
SET-UP** →

**TECHNIQUES OF
A SET-UP** ←

THE OBSERVATION PROCESS

ANATOMY OF A SET-UP



THE
STING

TURN OUTS →

THE

1. The Observation Process

- ✓ Body Language
- ✓ Listening
- ✓ Verbal
- ✓ Reaction

TOOLS OF
SET-UP

THE SU

TEST OF LIMITS
AND FISH TESTING

SELECTION OF THE VICTIM

←
TECHNIQUES OF
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THE OBSERVATION PROCESS

2. Selection of Victim

- ✓ Look For
 - Friendliness
 - Naiveté
 - Familiarity



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3. Test of Limits or "Fish-Testing"

- ✓ Test theories
- ✓ Test Tolerance Levels
- ✓ Reaction to Minor Violations
- ✓ Personality Characteristics
- ✓ Pitting One Officer Against Another
- ✓ The Push

TOOLS
SET-

SYMPOTHY

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TEST OF LIMITS
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4. The Support System

- ✓ Offers to help
- ✓ Setting Loyalty Standards
- ✓ You're the best
- ✓ Pledge of Devotion
- ✓ Expression of Faith

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5. Empathy and/or Sympathy

- ✓ Sharing Problems
- ✓ The You, Me Syndrome
- ✓ A Tragic Event
- ✓ A "One Time Only" Violation of Rules



THE STING

THE LEVER

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THE RUMOR CLINIC

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6. The Plea For Help

- ✓ I am a Failure
- ✓ Lack of Confidence
- ✓ Change of Life-style
- ✓ Rehabilitation

**TOOLS OF A
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THE WE / THEY
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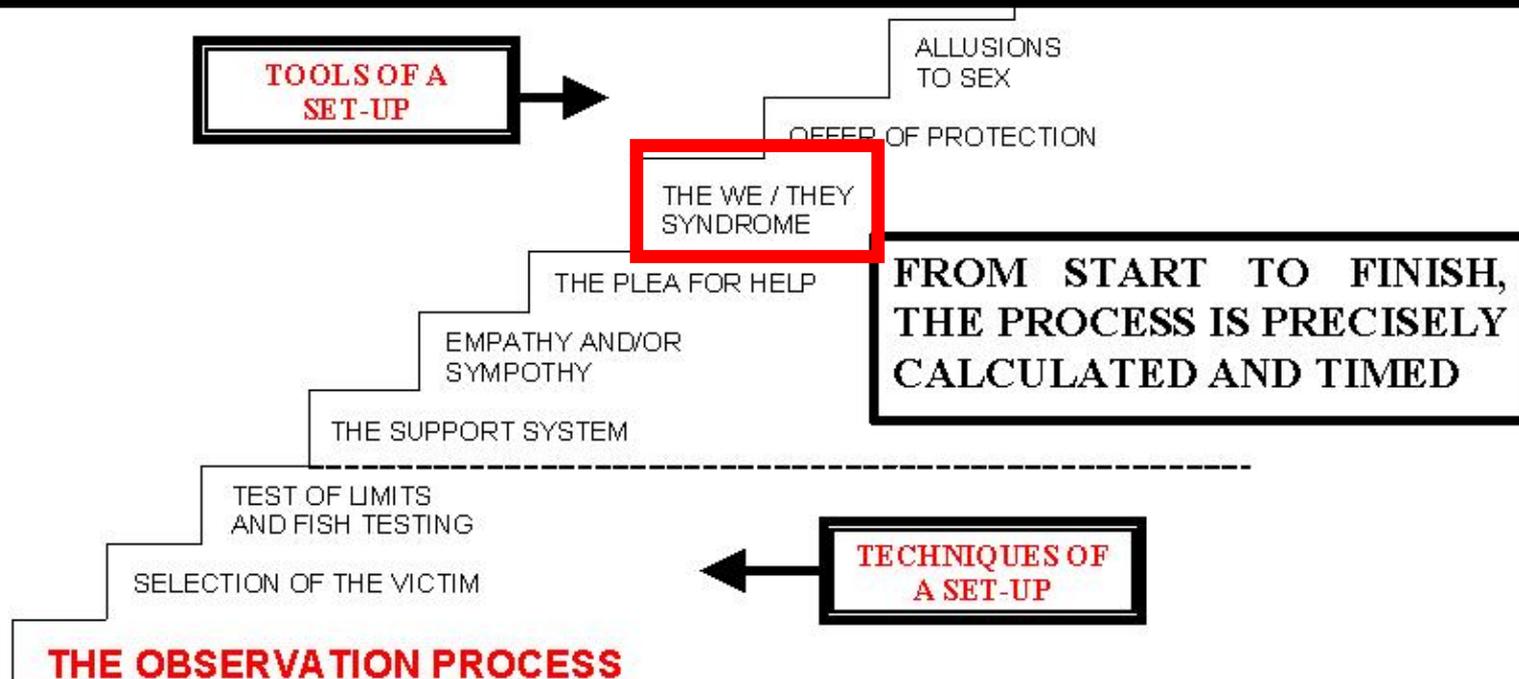
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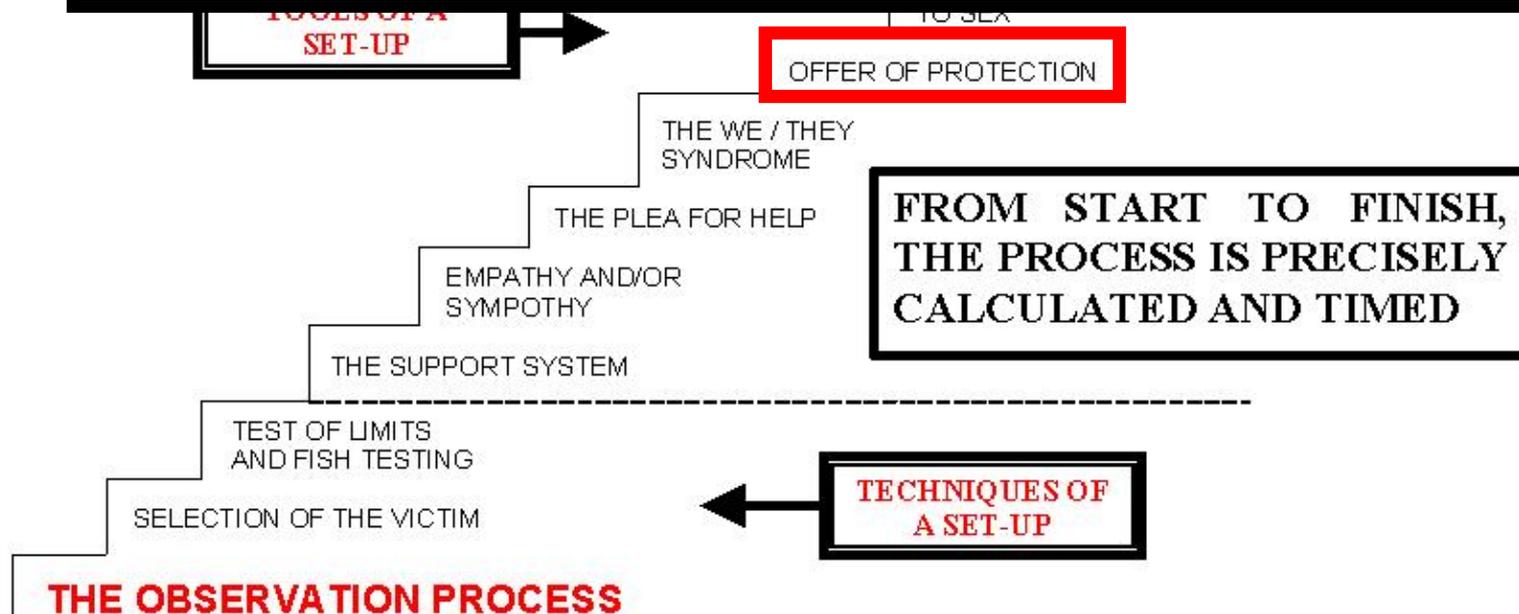
7. The We/They Syndrome

- ✓ They Don't Understand, But WE do
- ✓ You're Not That Way
- ✓ They Treat You Like One of Us



8. Offer of Protection

- ✓ Staging an Event
- ✓ I'm OK, You're OK- They're not Okay
- ✓ Use of Fear
- ✓ I Won't Let it Happen to You



ANATOMY OF A SET-UP



THE
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TURN OUTS

9. Allusion To Sex

- ✓ The Intent
- ✓ The Urge
- ✓ Nice Guy Image
- ✓ Allusions to "Out There"
- ✓ Rumors and Their Effect
- ✓ Institution Procedures

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**TECHNIQUES OF
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10. Touch System

- ✓ Flicking
- ✓ Pat on Back
- ✓ The Accident
- ✓ Frequency

ANATOMY OF A SET-UP



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11. Rumor Clinic

- ✓ Purpose
- ✓ Effect
- ✓ Understanding Street Psychology
- ✓ "Turning"

ANATOMY OF A SET-UP



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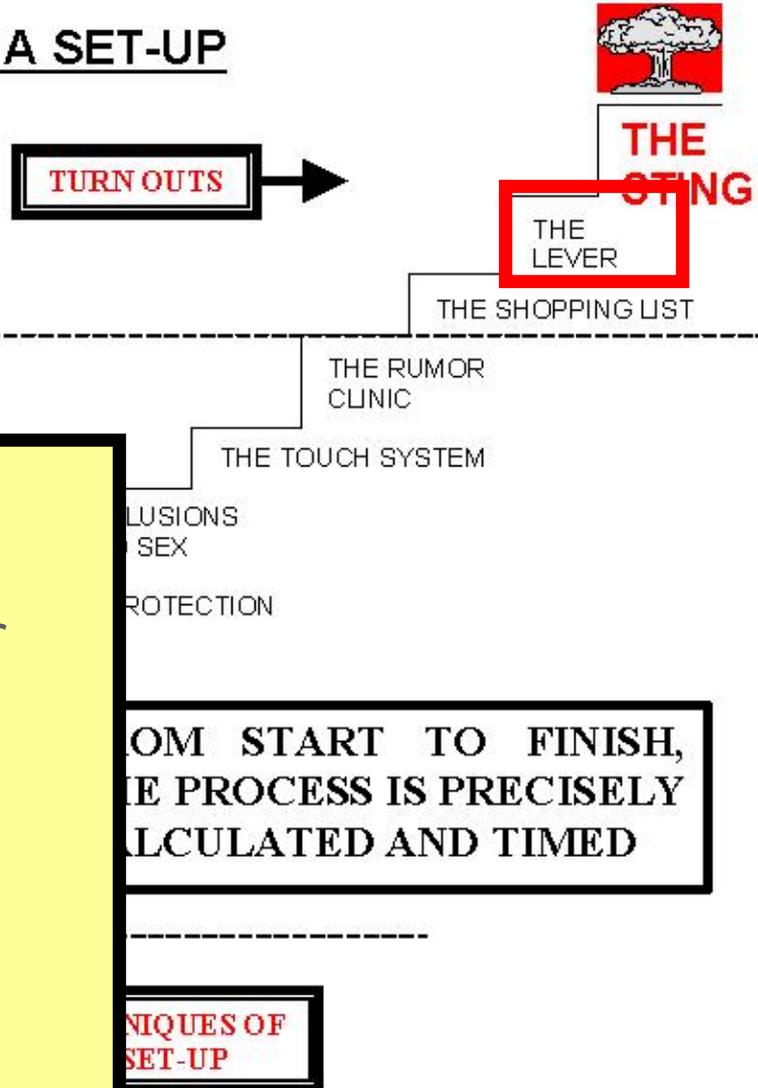
SELECTION OF THE VICTIM

THE OBSERVATION PRO

12. Shopping List

- ✓ One Time Only
- ✓ Money, Drugs, Alcohol, Sex
- ✓ Accepted and Refusal
- ✓ The Future

ANATOMY OF A SET-UP



13. Lever

- ✓ Acquiring a Lever
- ✓ Usages
- ✓ Demand
- ✓ Wedge
- ✓ Point of No-Return

ANATOMY OF A SET-UP

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TOOLS OF A
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14. Sting

- ✓ Use of Fear and Force
- ✓ Victim's Choice
- ✓ Inmates Goal
- ✓ Victim's Future
- ✓ Between a Rock and a Hard Spot

EMPATHY
SYMPOTH

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15. Consequences

- ✓ Discipline
- ✓ Lose your Job
- ✓ Arrest
- ✓ Death

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D**

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THE OBSERVATION PROCESS



Don't be fooled by Their Performance

- ◆ Good Guys
- ◆ Nice Guys
- ◆ Naïve Neds or Nellys
- ◆ Illiterate Dummies
- ◆ Con Men or Women
- ◆ Preachers
- ◆ Sam or Samantha Sentimentals

