

Vulnerability and Sex Offending



Zoe Lodrick
Psychotherapist

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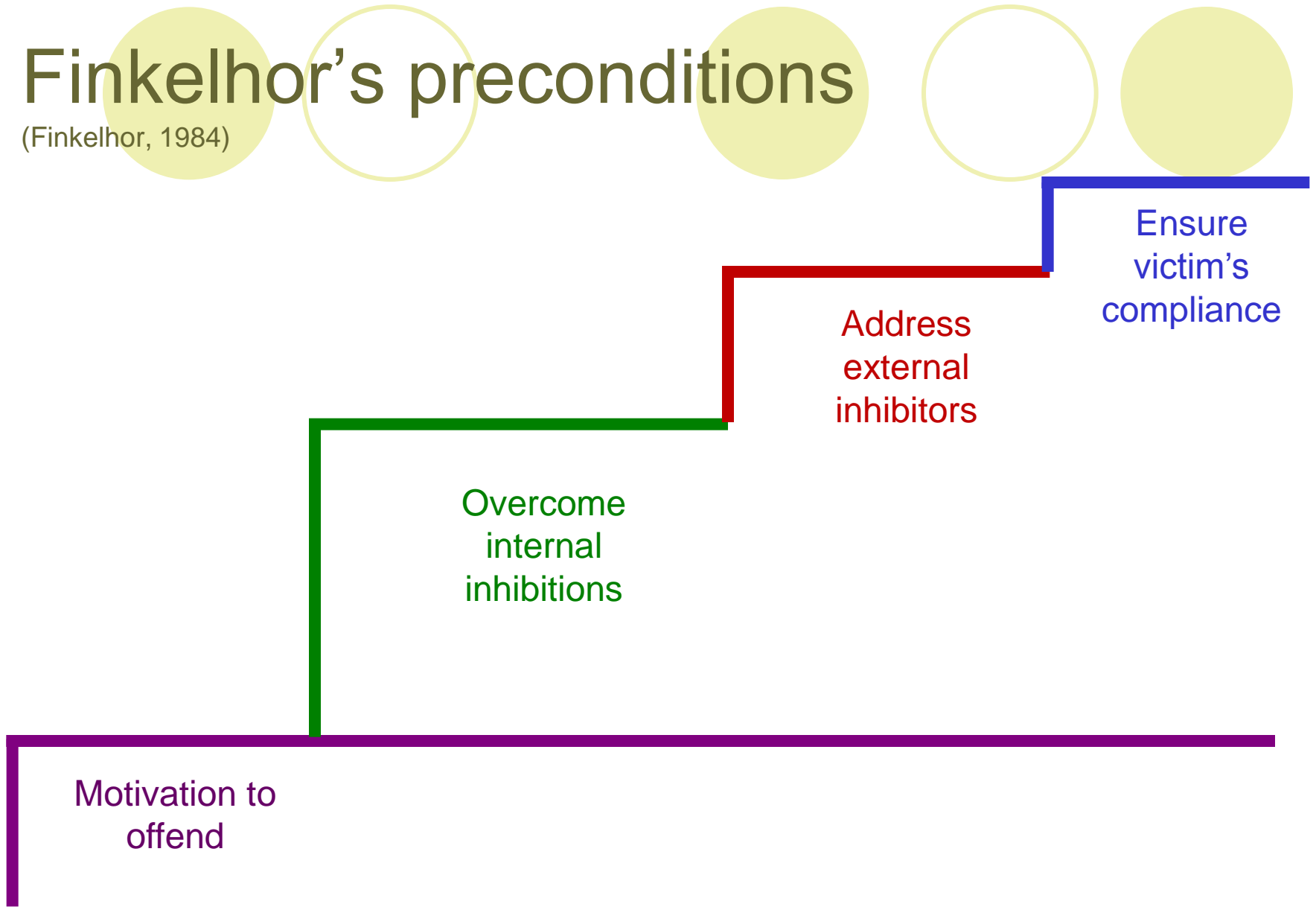
**Sex crime begins with
the offender.....**



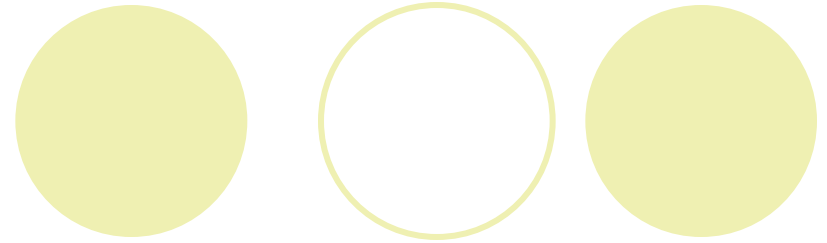
**Four steps to
offending.....**

Finkelhor's preconditions

(Finkelhor, 1984)



Put very simply:



The individual wants to offend



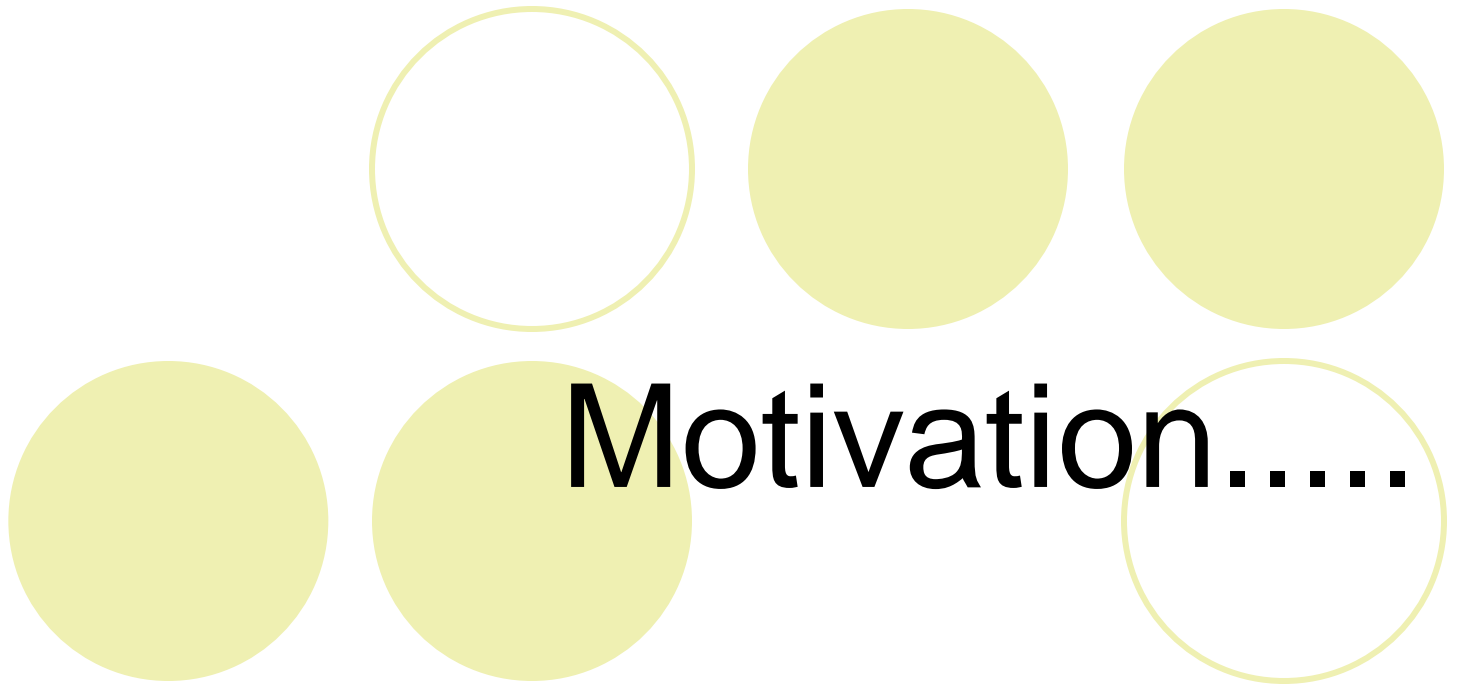
They find a way to square that with their conscience



They create an opportunity



They deal with any victim resistance and make every effort to 'get away with it'.....



Motivation.....

Motivation:

Three Basic Theories



BIOLOGICAL

Sex / reproduction is a basic human drive; and rape seen as a mating strategy for relatively unsuccessful males.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Sexual aggression is believed to be learned behaviour.

SOCIOLOGICAL

Rape is considered an inevitable product of patriarchal (male dominated) society.



Internal inhibitors.....



Internal inhibitors may include:

- Conscience
- Moral objection
- Timidity
- Empathy
- Ambivalence
- Social incompetence
- Physical debility

Ways to overcome them may include:

- Alcohol / drug use
- Fantasy (especially if accompanied by masturbation)
- Use of pornography
- Anger / rage / paranoia
- Normalisation through 'banter' with friends
- Cognitive distortions ("wonky thinking")



Creating opportunity.....

External inhibitors

Environment selection – considering potential inhibitors



Consider how / when victim(s) might enter the 'field'



Victim selection – vulnerability / accessibility / desirability



Consider any potential objection / opposition from others



Victim contact strategy

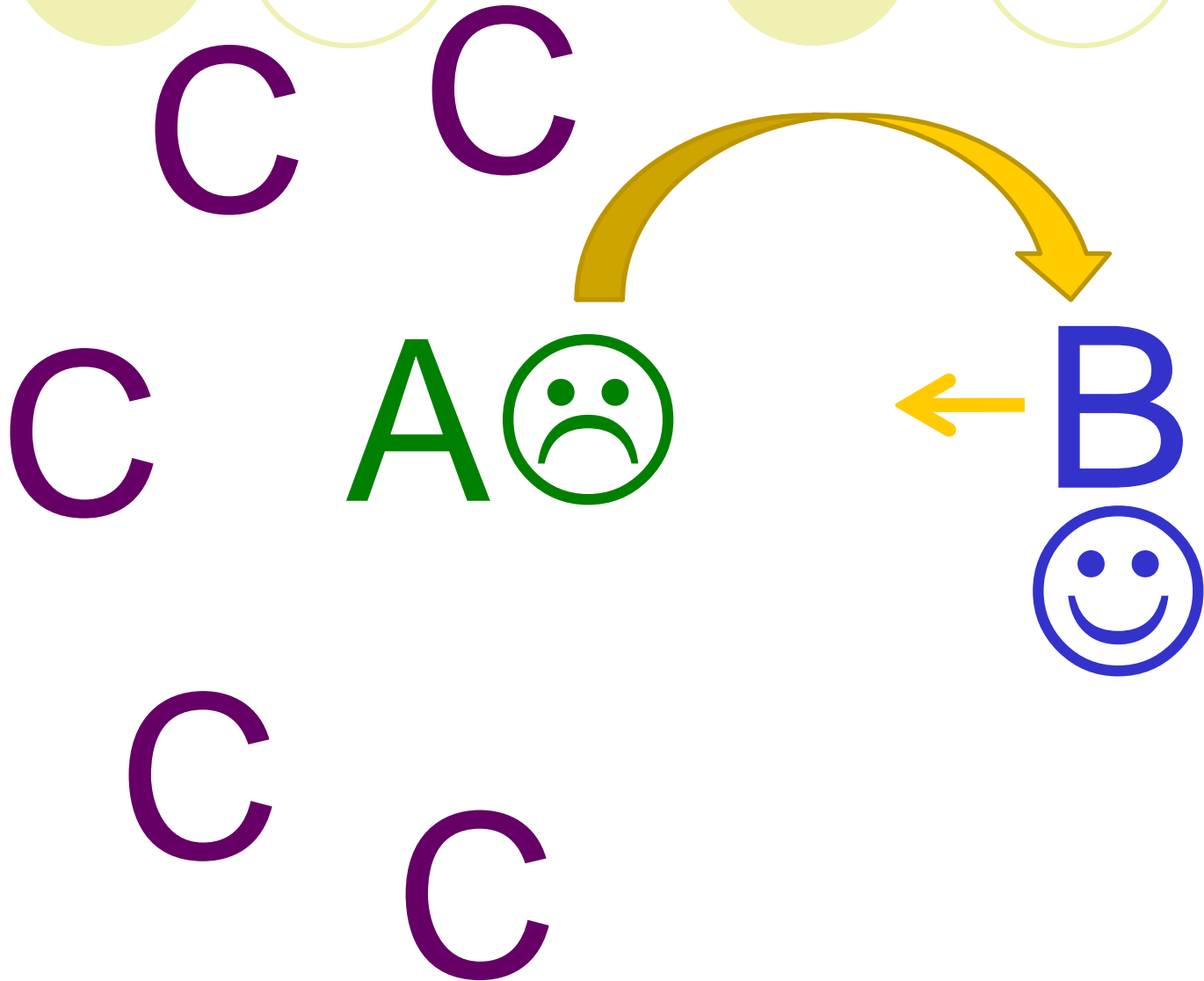


**Overcoming victim
resistance.....**

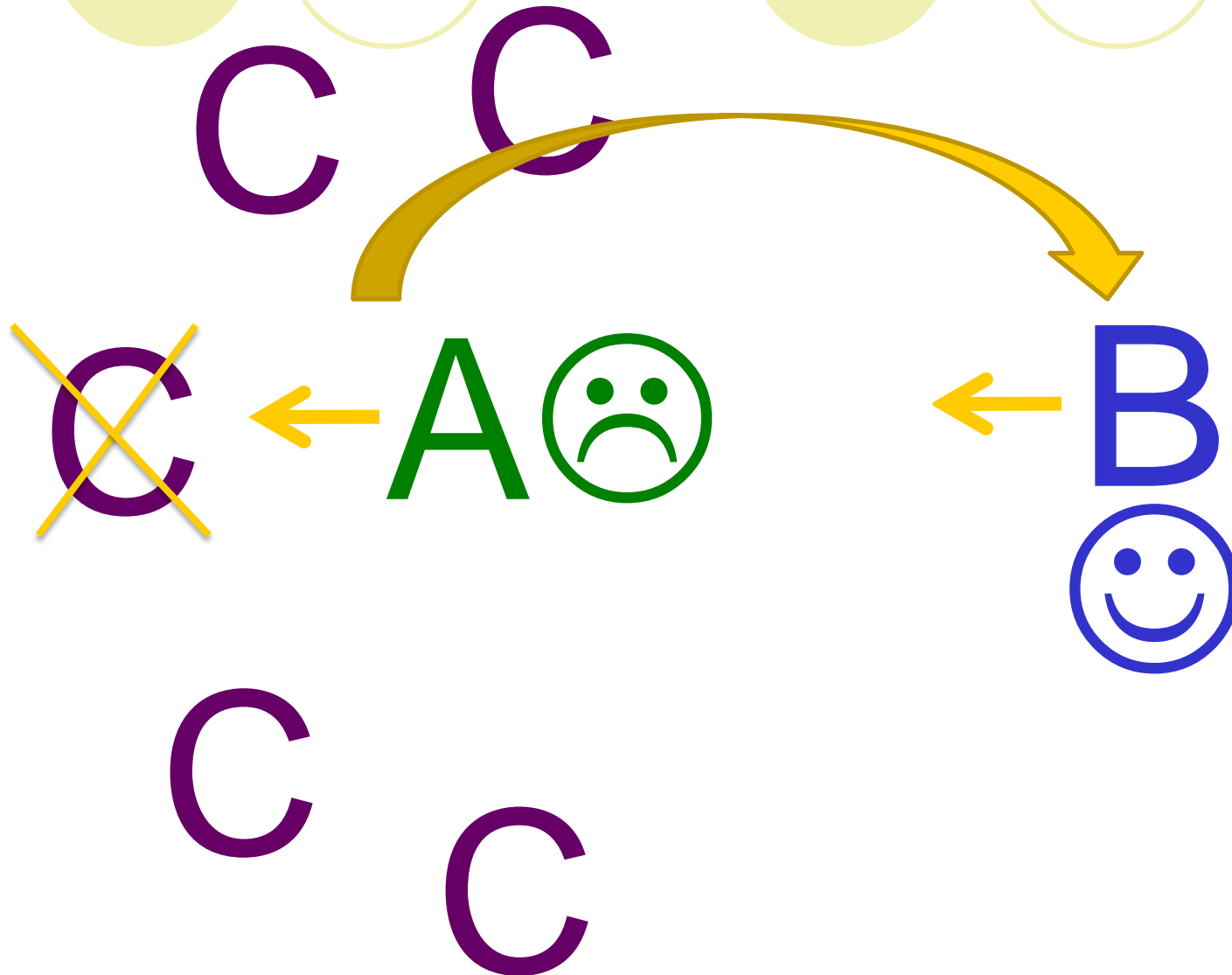
Ensuring compliance is relatively easy.....

- Targeting / grooming – attachment (of victim to offender) is likely to significantly contribute to compliance and silence.

Attachment in action:



Attachment in action expanded:



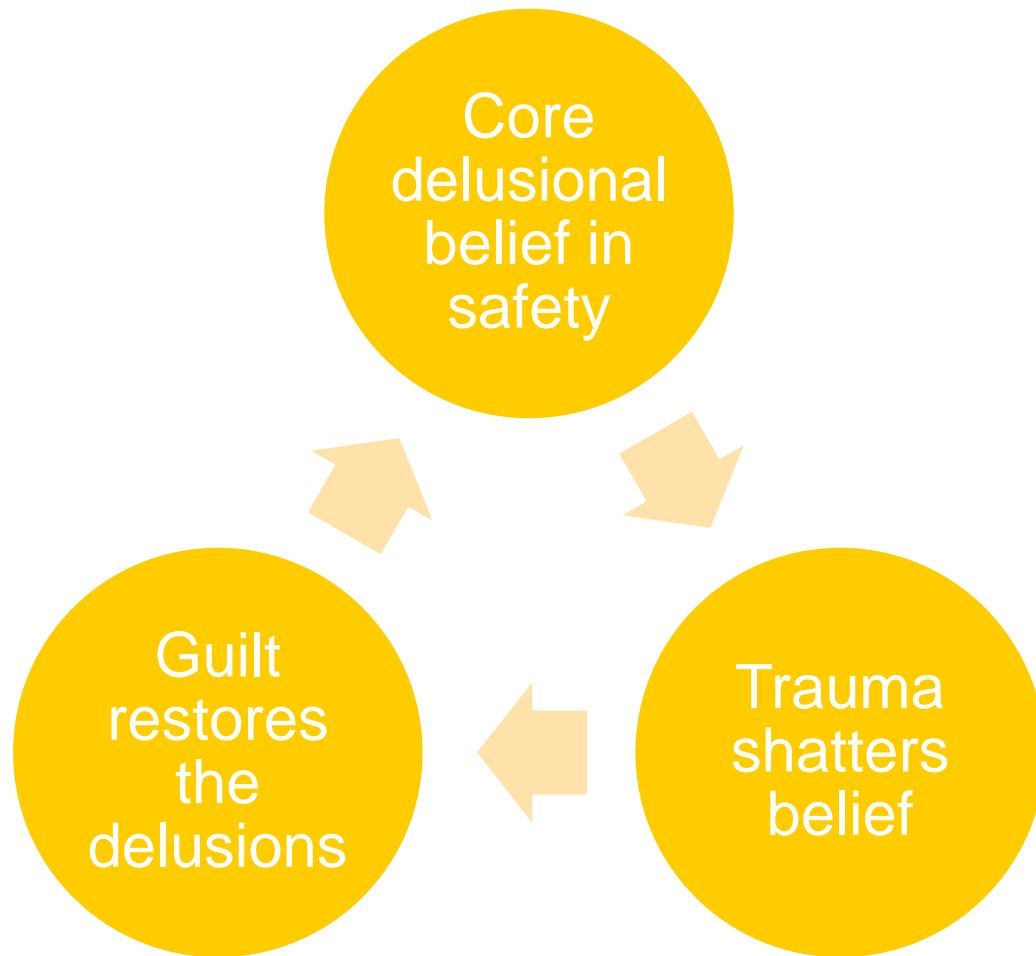
Ensuring compliance is relatively easy.....

- Targeting vulnerable individuals is a strategy utilized by many offenders (strategy supports compliance and/or lack of detection) .
- Violence or threats of violence may be used.
- Moral force or persuasion may be utilized.
- Offenders may share their cognitive distortions with the victim.
- Fear will likely pacify / immobilize the majority of victims' and guilt will subsequently silence them.

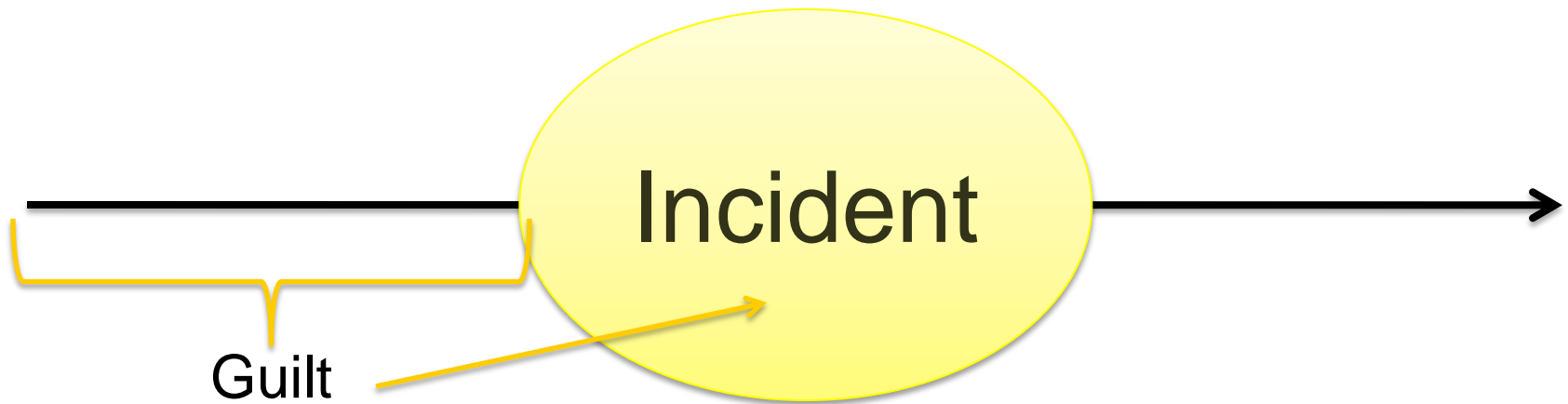


Victim guilt.....

Guilt is psychologically healthy.....



Disclosure and guilt.....

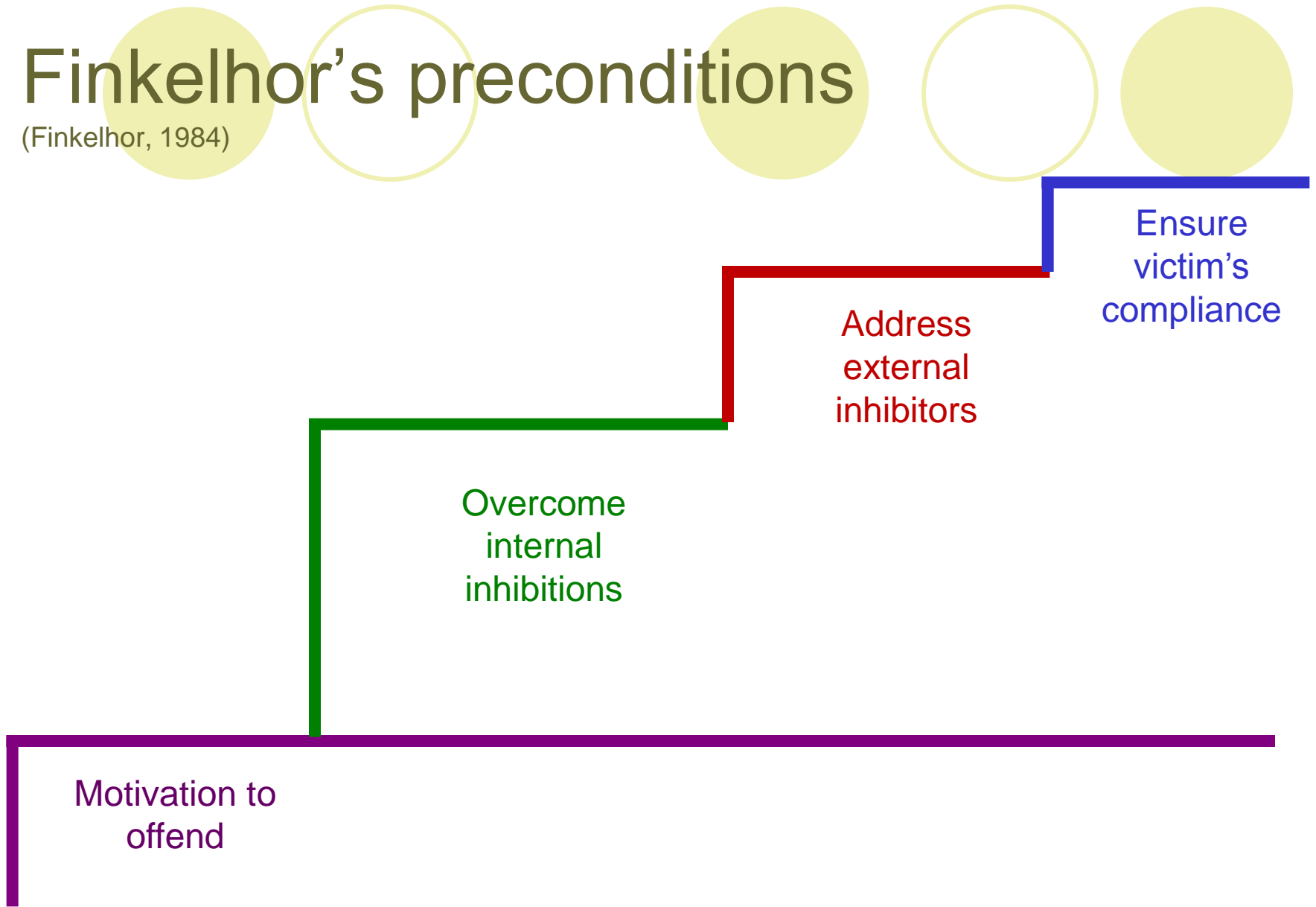


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How can we utilize what
we know of sex offenders
in investigations.....

Finkelhor's preconditions

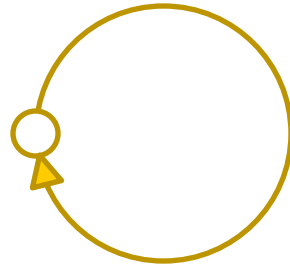
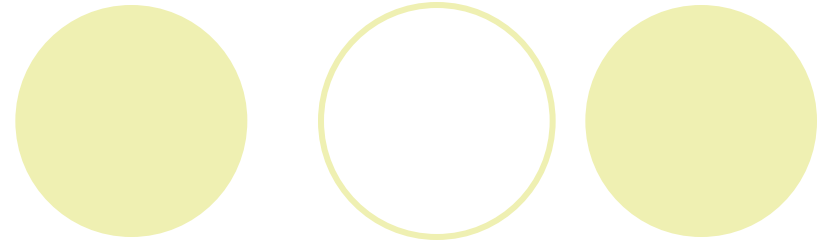
(Finkelhor, 1984)





Trauma is cyclic.....

Trauma is cyclic



Thoughts
Feelings
Body sensations
Behaviour

Contact details:



: zoe.lodrick@googlemail.com



: 077 3646 3050