**Chapter 07: Women and the Criminal Justice System**

**Summary**

Women may or may not be culturally distinct from males. Regardless of one’s view, females are distinct from males when it comes to crime and justice. As both practitioners and “participants” in the system, females face specific hurdles not faced by their male counterparts.

Criminal justice in the United States is undergoing significant changes that will impact generations to come. Prominent among the changes is the increased involvement of women in all aspects of our justice systems. Females are increasingly assuming roles as police officers; police chiefs; attorneys; judges; probation, parole, and correctional officers; wardens, defendants, inmates, and clients. Responding to these changes has been, and continues to be a work-in-progress that will hopefully result in fruitful benefits for all. As practitioners, females have much to offer the criminal justice system. The goal is to recognize and utilize the many benefits females have to offer. Equally important is the need to recognize and respond to the fact that male and female offenders differ and accommodations for these differences should not be ignored.