

**COOK COUNTY JUVENILE FEMALE OFFENDER PROJECT
FEMALE YOUTH STRENGTHS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Complete this assessment using the best available information obtained by staff through observation, self-report information from the girl, family member(s) or third parties (e.g., school personnel employers, relatives outside the home), reports from official agencies, and the results of formal evaluations. Select only one statement under each need category and add the scores for the 12 items for a total score.

1. Family Relationships

- 0 = While conflicts may occur, the home environment is stable; parent/care giver displays appropriate parenting patterns.
- 2 = Lack of cooperation/consistency between parent(s)/care giver(s) on how to handle child problems/discipline; frequent or multiple live-in partners.
- 3 = One or both parent/care giver has an ongoing need for psychiatric/AODA treatment, a chronic health problem, or intellectual deficit that seriously impairs his/her ability to provide care for the child(ren).
- 5 = One or both parent/care giver displays destructive/abusive parenting patterns. Includes parents who have emotionally rejected the child(ren) or where there is no underlying emotional bond between parent and child(ren). Parent/care giver has refused psychiatric/AODA treatment.

2. Emotional Stability/Mental Health

- 0 = Appropriate adolescent response; she appears well-adjusted.
- 3 = Episodic behaviors which prohibit or severely limit her adequate functioning, such as: aggressive toward family member(s), aggressive acting out, withdrawal, mild depression, anxiety, irritability, moderate sleep/eating disorders, and obsessive/compulsive behaviors.
- 5 = Chronic behaviors which prohibit or severely limit her adequate functioning, such as: inability to provide basic self-care, attempted harm to self (suicidal tendencies) or others, major depression, current use of psychotropic or anti-depressant drugs, psychiatric hospitalization of three weeks' duration or more within last six months, and acute eating disorders.

3. Basic Needs

- 0 = Suitable living environment; family has adequate resources to meet her basic needs.
- 1 = Family has housing but problems exist due to inadequate plumbing, heating, wiring, housekeeping, or size. Financial problems contribute to nomadic lifestyle and/or limit parent/care giver ability to provide adequate meals, medical care, etc.
- 3 = Youth has left home and found her own alternative living arrangement.
- 5 = Family has eviction notice, house/apartment building has been condemned or is uninhabitable, or family/youth is homeless.

4. Substance Abuse

- 0 = No evidence of alcohol or drug use.
- 1 = Experimentation with alcohol or drugs, but there is no indication of sustained use.
- 3 = There is evidence of periodic and/or regular use of alcohol or drugs resulting in disruptive or unproductive behavior and/or causing some discord in her family or school.
- 5 = There is evidence of a chronic alcohol or drug abuse problem with serious disruption of functioning, such as: removal/dropping out of school, job loss, problems with the law, and/or physical harm to self or others.

5. Life Skills

- 1 = Functions independently at an age-appropriate level; she possesses practical living skills, communication skills, and is motivated to succeed.
- 1 = Requires supervision and/or moderate assistance in the application of practical living and communication skills; she has limited judgement skills.
- 2 = Displays impulsive and risky behaviors; she has severe deficits in practical living and communication skills that have resulted in dangerous or negative consequences.
- 3 = Chemically or developmentally impaired; severe limits to ability to learn life skills.

6. History of Abuse/Neglect

- 0 = No history or indication of physical or sexual abuse or neglect.
- 1 = Physical or sexual abuse or neglect alleged but never substantiated. Includes self reports by girl and abuse/neglect suspected by professionals.
- 2 = Substantiated physical abuse or neglect, including abuse, neglect or dependent adjudications and non-adjudicated substantiated complaints.
- 4 = Substantiated sexual abuse, including abuse adjudications and non-adjudicated substantiated complaints.

7. Physical Safety

- 0 = No threat or fear for her physical safety from family, peer, or community members.
- 2 = Youth has experienced threats or fears for her physical safety from family, peer, or community members. Youth has participated in treatment to resolve abuse/violence issues.
- 3 = Youth has a history of receiving threats to her physical safe from family, peer, or community members. Youth has not received adequate treatment to resolve abuse/violence issues.
- 4 = Youth is currently experiencing physical/emotionally/sexual abuse or domestic violence. Immediate threats to her physical safety have been made by family, peer, or community members.

8. Peer Relations

- 0 = Friends not known to be delinquent or to have influenced involvement in delinquent behavior. She exhibits adequate social skills and uses leisure time constructively.
- 1 = Youth's peer group is negative and her relationships are detrimental to positive goal achievement. Alternatively, she lacks social skills and has few positive interactions with peers. Leisure time is not used productively.