

## YLS/CFI INTERVIEW QUESTIONS: INITIAL ASSESSMENT

CLIENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NICKNAME/ALIAS: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTENDED INTAKE INTERVIEW: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **PROCESS:**

- **Obtain collateral information/interviews, files, and historical information prior to the interview whenever possible. This allows the interviewer to ask about inconsistencies.**
- **Start with youth and family Interview, then interview each separately, and end with reuniting both to get more information about areas where they were inconsistent.**

**Questions should be open-ended whenever possible and responses may elicit additional questions.**

### **I. PRIOR AND CURRENT OFFENSES/DISPOSITIONS**

#### **YOUTH INTERVIEW**

##### **CURRENT OFFENSE**

- What crimes were you recently charged with/convicted of?
- **If there has been an admission:** Describe the crime/who were you with/who planned this
- How do you feel about this offense now? Why did you do it?
  - If there was victim – “What kind of effect do you think this offense had on \_\_\_\_\_?”

##### **PRIOR OFFENSES**

- Have you ever been in trouble with the law before or had contact with police? What did you do? Tell me about these incidents
- Have you ever been adjudicated for any of these crimes?
  - What was the disposition?

##### **VIOLATIONS**

- Have you ever had a warrant/violation filed against you? If so, when and for what?
- Have you ever had an AWOL? When? What happened?

##### **DELINQUENCY PLACEMENT HISTORY/PROBATION INVOLVEMENT**

- Have you ever been involved with a Probation department? If so, when and for what?
  - Do you recall whether when you were involved with probation you attended any programs?
  - Did you attend counseling and if so, what agencies were involved?
- How was your experience with probation? What were you required to do? Did you like your probation officer? How often did you see him/her?
- Have you ever been removed from your home to go to detention or some other placement?
  - If so, when and where? What was that experience like?

#### **PARENT INTERVIEW**

- Ask a few questions to gauge whether the parent reports anything the youth did not – if necessary.
- What impact has \_\_\_\_\_ crime(s) had on the family if any? How have you handled this at home (e.g., consequences)?

## II. FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES/PARENTING

Circumstances of current family/living arrangement (living with biological parents? Siblings? Parents ever married? Who are the current guardians? – this is to establish who to consider the parent(s))

- Where do you live now? How long have you lived there? Who do you live with?
- Changes in youth's living arrangement over the past year?
- Has child welfare ever been involved with the family? If so, why?
  - If yes, any Services Provided?

### Household Rules/Behavior

- Are there many rules at home? What kind of rules? (Chores, curfew, homework, etc)
- Do you believe there are a lot of rules at home or few rules?
- Are there ever periods of time when \_\_\_ is home without a parent?
- Have they (their child) ever run away from home?
  - How many times? When was the last time? Where and how long?
  - Did you report them as a runaway?
- Do aggressive things happen in your home much or at all; for example, screaming or threatening, breaking objects or hitting walls, or hitting or pushing each other? (refers to both the parents being aggressive and the youth being aggressive; evaluate the severity – sibling fights are normal, for example)

### YOUTH INTERVIEW:

- How do you get along with your mother? (Probes: How much time to you spend together?, How often do you see her?, What kinds of things do you do together?)
- How do you get along with your father? (Probes: How much time to you spend together?, How often do you see him?, What kinds of things do you do together?, If parent has been absent for some time – gauge whether the individual has any influence over the youth)
- How do your parents get along?

Note: If one of the parties is a step-parent or 'common-law' partner – ask youth whether they consider the individual a 'parent' (e.g., does the person give them any rules to follow or give them a consequence when they get in trouble?).

- If yes, ask the relationship questions about this individual

### Household Rules/Expectations/Supervision

- Are your parent's rules clear?
- What do your parents do when you break the rules or when they are upset with you?
- When you get in trouble in or out of the home, what do your parents do? (e.g., restriction, removal of other privileges, corporal punishment)
- Do your parent(s) follow through with whatever punishment they say will happen?
- Who primarily enforces the rules at home?
- Do you think your parents usually know when you don't follow rules? Do you get away with a lot? Example:
- When you leave the house, do you tell your parents where you are going?

### Behavior

- Do you ever hit, slap, kick, or push anyone in the home? If yes, when is the last time that happened? Explain:
- Does anyone in the home hit, slap, kick, or push each other? If yes, when is the last time that happened? Explain:

PARENT INTERVIEW:

- How would you describe your relationship with (youth)? (Probes: How much time do you spend together?, How often do you see him/her?, What kinds of things do you do together?)
- How would you describe your significant other's relationship like with (youth)?

**Household Rules/Expectations**

- What do you do when \_\_\_\_ doesn't follow the rules?
- Does he/she generally follow rules? How so or how not?
- How do you handle it when your youth misbehaves? Are there consequences? What are these usually?
- Do you always follow through with the consequences that you told your youth were going to happen?
- Who enforces the rules at home?
- Are there times when he/she is rewarded for good behavior? What are the rewards?

**III. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT:**

- Is \_\_\_\_\_ enrolled in school now? If yes, record school details; including Grade, whether grades were repeated, school and type, IEP, gifted, etc
- Generally, how does the youth and family feel about school? (Probes: is it valued, do the parents support the youth to do well in school or are they completely uninvolved, is there punishment for poor grades?)

**Attendance/Grades: In the past year**

- Does he/ she attend school every day?
- Has he/she skipped any full days of school? Skipped classes?
- How many unexcused days of school have been missed in the past year? Have other school years been similar or is more or less school being missed this year?
- Grades: In the past year? Failing any classes right now?

**Behavior**

- Has there been any trouble in school this past year? Including:
  - Detention(s)\_\_\_\_\_ Reason(s)
  - In school suspensions\_\_\_\_\_ Reason(s)
  - Out of school suspensions\_\_\_\_\_ Reason(s)
  - Expulsions (when, why, length, conditions)

YOUTH INTERVIEW

**Achievement**

- Do you like school?
  - If yes, What do you like about it? Do you think school is important? What is important about it?
  - If no, why not?
- How well do you do in school? Grades this year: A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_
- Is this average for you? Are you capable of doing better? Has there been a decline this past year?

**Attendance**

- Are you ever late to school or to classes? Why?
- How much school have you missed this year? Why?
- What do you do when you skip school?

### **Behavior/Discipline: In the past year**

- Have you had any trouble in school this past year that may have gotten you detention, suspension or an expulsion? What did you do? How long were you on suspension/detention?
- Have you ever gotten into trouble outside the school building (i.e. school event or on the bus) by getting in a fight, doing drugs, starting a fire, or some other reason?

### **Relationship with Others at School**

- How would your teachers describe your behavior in class?
- Have you had any significant problems with your teachers? Any fighting/arguing?
- Have you ever been bullied or threatened at school? Ever been in a fight in school?
- Have you ever bullied or threatened another classmate?

### **Employment History**

- Are you working now? Where? Is it part time or full time?
  - If no, are you looking for work? Explain what you have done to find a job?
- Do you like your job? Why or why not?
- How do you get along with your supervisors/boss?
- What do you want to do when you are finished with school? Where do you see yourself 5 years from now? (Try to get at youth's goals.)

### **PARENT INTERVIEW**

- Do you see your youth's grades? Does he/she get any reinforcement for good grades/punishment for bad ones?
- Have you received any reports about problem behavior at school? From the school or your youth?
- Do you think your son/daughter is doing well in school or could do better?
- How well does he/she get along with teachers? Any problems with other kids in school?
- Have you tried to encourage your youth to get a job?

### **IV. PEER RELATIONS & VI. LEISURE/RECREATION**

- How many friends does the youth have? Are these close friends or acquaintances?
- What are the friends like? Have the parents met them?
- What kinds of things does \_\_\_\_ do with his/her friends?
- How does \_\_\_ spend his/her free time? After school?
- What are the kinds of things that really interest you?
  - Clubs, Organizations or teams: (what, frequency, who with, organized, commitment)
  - School Activities:
  - Other Interests:

### **YOUTH INTERVIEW**

- How many close friends do you have? What makes a friend 'close', how would you define this?
- Do you have any positive friends?
  - What makes them positive?
- How many of your friends have ever been involved with probation? How about involvement with the police in general or have been arrested? (Close friends or acquaintances)
- How many of your friends use drugs and/or alcohol? (Close friends or acquaintances)
- Do your friends use drugs? What and how often?
- Are you involved in a relationship?
- Boyfriend? Girlfriend? Is this person positive?
- Do you ever yell at your friends? Have you ever been in a physical fight with your friends?

- Do they do any of these things with you?
- Have you ever had trouble making friends?
- When you get in trouble are you usually with friends or by yourself?
- Do you associate with anyone in any gangs? Are you a member of any type of gang? If so, which one? How long?
- Have you ever carried anything that could be used as a weapon? (ie. pocket knife, box cutter, bb gun, etc.)
- How do you spend your time when you are not in school/work? Are you often bored in your free time?

PARENT INTERVIEW

- How many of the friends do you know/have you met?
- Do you approve of them? Do you think they are good or bad influences? (close friends or acquaintances)  
Explain:

**V. SUBSTANCE ABUSE:**

YOUTH INTERVIEW

- At what age did you first try alcohol? How often do you drink?
  - What are the usual circumstances (probes: Drink to get drunk? Only drink with friends?)
  - Have you ever passed out or blacked out from drinking?
- Have you tried any drugs? At what age? How often?
  - What are the usual circumstances (probes: Only do it with friends when it is around? Go find drugs when you don't have any?)
  - Have you ever passed out or blacked out from drugs?
- Has anyone told you your drinking or drug use is a problem? Is anyone worried about your use?
- Do your parents know how much you use? Has this caused any problems with your parents? Explain:
- Do you ever go to school drunk or high? Do you get drunk or high at school? Do you cut class to get drunk or high? (also ask about work if applicable)
- Would you like to get some help to stop drinking or using drugs?
- Have you ever sold drugs?
- Were you under the influence at the time of your current offense? At the time of any other offenses?

PARENT INTERVIEW

- Do you have any suspicions your youth is or has used drugs?
  - If yes, how often? What drug(s)? Since what age?
  - What about alcohol?
- Have drugs or alcohol caused any problems in your home?

**VII. PERSONALITY/BEHAVIOR & ATTITUDES /ORIENTATION** (questions supplement some information that has already been obtained)

YOUTH INTERVIEW

- List 3 words to describe yourself
- Tell me something you would say you are really good at. What you are most proud of?
- What would you say is your best quality?
- Tell me something you would like to improve about yourself? Something you aren't really good at?

- Of all the kids your age, do you think you are better than most of them, about the same, not as good? Explain:
- Do you often find yourself bragging to others like your friends?
  
- What are the reasons you believe you get into trouble?
- What would you say is the worst thing you have ever done? Something you feel really bad about?
- When you do something that is wrong, what do you usually do afterwards (apologize, admit, deny)?
  
- Have you ever been in any physical fights? How many?
  - Where there ever any injuries?
  - What is the worst thing someone has done to you in a fight?
- What is the worst thing you have ever done to someone in a fight?
  - What were the circumstances (did you initiate any)?
  - Do you feel badly when you hurt someone?
- When you are having a problem with someone, how do you usually handle it?
- What frustrates you? How do you handle it?
- Has anyone ever told you that you get frustrated easily? Has anyone told you that you have a bad temper?
- Tell me about something that easily gets you angry or upset?
  - What do you do when you get angry and upset? (curse, yell, cry, stomp, slam doors, throw things, walk away, try to calm down, talk to a friend)
  - Have you ever broken or damaged anything when you were angry?
  
- Have you ever set fire to anything?
- Have you ever hurt an animal in any way?
  
- Do you ever act without thinking about the consequences or do you usually think things through? Explain.
  - Was there ever any hesitation about your decisions before or while committing your offense? Explain.

#### Attention to Task

- Do you have trouble concentrating? Have any teachers told you they think you have trouble concentrating?
  - Is it more than just when you are bored?
- Have you ever been diagnosed with ADHD or ADD?

#### Attitudes Toward Crime

- Do you think the police treated you fairly? Why/Why not?
- Do you think the police normally treat most people fairly? Why/Why not?
- When you have contact with police how do you act?
- If you knew, you could break the law without ever being caught, would you go for it? Why/Why not?
- Do you think there should be rules and laws? Do you think you should follow them? Why/Why not?
- Do you think there are some situations when you think it would be OK to break the law?
- How likely is it that you will be arrested again? (0% chance to 100% chance)
- If you ever did get in trouble with the law again, what do you think it would most likely be for?

#### Not Seeking Help

- In the past year, has someone recommended that you seek treatment, counseling or some other help? Who? Did you go? Why or why not?
- Would you be willing to do things to help yourself stay out of trouble?

### Respect for Authority

- How do you normally act if your parent tells you to do something you do not like?
- How do you normally act if a teacher tells you to do something you don't like?

### Callous, Little Concern for Others

- Have you ever tricked people into getting what you want? Can you give me an example?
- Has anyone close to you (friend, family) ever been seriously hurt? How did you handle it? Did you help them?
- What do you do when people close to you are upset about something or are going through something difficult?

### PARENT INTERVIEW

- List 3 words to describe your son/daughter
- What is your son/daughter really good at?
- Do you feel like your child is hyperactive?
- Has he/she ever been diagnosed with ADHD or ADD?
- How does he/she treat you and others in your home?
- Does he/she get angry often? What generally triggers this? How does your youth handle anger?
- What kinds of things seem to get her/him upset?
- Do you think he/she has a bad temper?
- Do you think he/she genuinely cares about people? Who? How do you know/evidence?
- Does your youth get into fights? How often? Last time? What usually causes this?
- Have you ever tried to get your youth some type of help, like counseling, tutoring, mentoring, etc? How does he/she respond?
- Does your youth treat you with respect?