

Re-assessment Interview Guide for the YLS/CMI In Placement

CLIENT'S NAME: _____ REASSESSMENT DATE: _____

FAMILY NAME: _____

- It is important to gather collateral information and have discussions with all parties involved with the youth while the youth is in placement.
- Questions should be open-ended whenever possible and responses may elicit additional questions.
- For reassessments in some domains, particularly the Family and Substance Abuse Domains, it will be important to balance ratings based on youth's behavior in the community prior to placement with their behavior in placement. Behavior prior to placement generally will be weighed more heavily.

I. PRIOR AND CURRENT OFFENSES/DISPOSITIONS:

This domain will not change while the youth is in placement unless there were new charges while the youth was in placement. It is important to double-check the initial assessment ratings in this domain to ensure these were correct.

Ask the youth about any charges that may have occurred while in placement; for example, what happened? How did the event come about (was the youth the perpetrator, etc.) – this also will be relevant in the scoring of sections VII and VIII.

II. FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES/PARENTING:

For reassessments of youth in placement, sections 2 a-2d will generally be scored based on the parenting situation during the year prior to placement and will not change, unless there have been notable improvements in parenting (e.g., parents are taking parenting classes).

2 e and 2 f will be scored based on the frequency, duration and quality of contact the youth has with the family member while in placement.

Relationship with parents:

- How do you get along with your parents/guardian currently?
- How often have family/guardian visited you or have you spoken on the phone?
 - How have those visits gone?
 - Have they been supportive?
- Have they ignored or “disowned” the youth while in placement?

- How did you get along with your mother/father/guardian prior to placement?
- Did you parent/guardian generally know where you were?
- What did your parents/guardian do if you were in trouble? What types of things got you into trouble?

III. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT: Find out if youth have been engaged in education and employment options while in placement. Collateral information should be gathered.

Note: It will be important to establish how the facility will define “classroom environment” and the “school yard environment” in the placement setting

COLLATERAL QUESTIONS

- Is the youth enrolled/participating in an education program or a GED program while in placement?

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- Is the youth performing at their expected level even if their grades are poor?
- Any behavioral issues in class? Outside of class during school hours?

YOUTH QUESTIONS

- How well are you doing in school- what are your grades are like?
- Have your grades improved since you have been in placement, why or why not?
- Have you gotten in any trouble in the classroom/educational setting?
- Have you missed any school?
- How would your teachers describe your classroom behavior? Have there been any significant problems between you and your teachers?

Employment: For some youth in placement employment will be more applicable. In those instances, ask the questions as if it were their workplace.

IV. Peer Relations: These questions pertain to youth's contacts and interactions with other youth in placement- other than in the educational or employment settings.

- Who are your closest friends while in placement?
- Would you say that your friends in placement are trying hard to improve and change their lives and want to stay out of trouble?
- Have your friends in placement been able to stay out of trouble while in placement?
- Have you had any fights with your peers while in placement (Verbally/Physically)?
- Have you had trouble making friends?

V.SUBSTANCE ABUSE: For the most part, the ratings in this area will not change while youth are in placement. These questions are more important for gauging whether one needs to be concerned about the youth's substance use when he/she gets released and how much support may be needed.

COLLATERAL QUESTIONS

- Has the youth attended any substance use treatment while in placement? If yes, level of engagement? Concerns about use when youth is released? What are his/her triggers?

YOUTH QUESTIONS

Prior to Placement:

- What was your experience with alcohol and drugs before you got into this facility?
 - Frequency of use? Problems associated with use? History of blacking out/passing out?
- What problems did your drug use or drinking cause for you? (probes: problems with parents, friends, relationships, the law)

In Placement:

- Have you used any drugs or alcohol while in placement? (If yes, ask series of questions about whether they have used alcohol, nicotine, and other drugs, age first started, frequency of use)
- Have you attended any substance use treatment while in placement? How is that going? Can you tell me one or two things you have learned in those sessions?
- What problems has your use of drugs or alcohol use created for you, while in placement?
- Have you been with anyone who has used drugs or alcohol while you have been in placement?
- Have you used any substances by yourself while in placement?

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VI. LEISURE/RECREATION: Questions in this area are based on the youth participating in organized recreational activities while in placement.

YOUTH QUESTIONS

- What are the kinds of things that really interest you?
- What activities have you been involved in while in placement? Did you ask to be involved in these or where you told?
 - What do you do in your free time?
- Are you often bored in your free time?
- Have you had opportunities to be involved in activities but declined?

VII. PERSONALITY/BEHAVIOR: Ratings are based on the prior year and whether there have been any changes since the last assessment. Ask similar questions of staff in the facility involved with the youth

- 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
- Of all the kids your age, do you think you are better than most of them, about the same, not as good? Explain:
- Are you good at getting out of bad situations (explain)?
- How do you think your teachers would describe you?
 - What about your mom or dad, staff in placement, your friends?
- 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)?
- Has anything happened here in placement that you feel bad about?

Physically/Verbally aggressive

- Have you been in any physical fights since you have been in placement?
 - Where there ever any injuries?
 - What were the circumstances (did you initiate any)?
- When you have a problem with someone, how do you usually handle it?
- Do you have daydreams or fantasies in which you think about people doing violent things?
- Do you think that using threats or force is the best way to get what you want? (If yes, explain when it is best. If no, explain what you do instead) Have you threatened anyone since you have been in placement?
- Have you ever gotten so angry that you made a threat to hurt someone? Has that happened since you have been in placement?

Tantrums/Frustration

- Do you lose your temper easily/how often? Have you lost your temper since you have been here?
- What kinds of things make you especially angry?
 - How easy is it for you to calm down after being angry?
- Have you had any incidents since you have been here?
 - What frustrates you? Would you say you are easily frustrated or more- easy going?
 - Have you been frustrated about anything since you have been here?

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- Do you ever act without thinking about the consequences?

Attention to Tasks

- Has anyone ever told you that you are hyperactive? Do you think you are?
- Are you easily distracted?
- Do you frequently feel restless and have trouble keeping your body still?
- Do you ever blurt out answers in class or during conversation?
- Do you have trouble concentrating? Is it more than just when you are bored?

VIII. ATTITUDES /ORIENTATION: These ratings are based on the prior year and whether there have been any changes since the last assessment. Ask similar questions of staff in the facility

Antisocial/procriminal attitudes

- Looking back, do you think the police, the court, etc. treated you fairly for your current offense?
- How do you feel about the sentence/disposition you received for the crime you committed?
- Do you think there are some situations when it would be OK to break the law?
- How likely is it that you will be arrested again? (0% chance to 100% chance)

Not Seeking Help/ Actively rejecting help

- How has your treatment/programming been going since you have been here?
 - Tell me 3 things you have learned in treatment that might help you when you leave
- Are you planning to continue to do any treatment when you leave? Do you think you need any?
- Is there anything that could get in the way of you getting help for (Describe specific youth's problems or need areas) or attending the program(s)? (Assess motivation to participate and cooperate; assess whether youth would be able to meet requirements to attend an intervention).
- When professionals or people who have taken care of you over the past year (or appropriate time interval) have tried to help you, how has that usually worked out/how do you think it will work out? If it does not work out, why does not it work out?
- Since you have been in placement how often are you meeting with a counselor or psychologist. Have you found it helpful? Why or why not?

Defies authority

- While in placement do you think you have been treated fairly, by the staff, your teachers, your parents?
- If you have not obeyed the rules of the staff in placement or teachers, etc. why not?
- How do you normally act if a teacher/placement staff 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?
- What do you do when people close to you are upset about something or are going through something difficult?
- Have others ever told you that you are not concerned about other people or how they feel? Why have they said this?