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JUVENILE JUSTICE
INSTITUTE 2020

SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT NOTETAKING GUIDE

USING A STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT:

• Introduces greater consistency and equity to the decision-making process;
• Focuses limited system resources on the highest risk offenders, while reducing the unnecessary use of secure detention, residential treatment, and correctional placements;
• Ensures that decisions are based both on concerns for community safety and concerns about the youth's needs that relate to delinquent behavior and necessary treatment interventions;
• Provides a mechanism to facilitate linking youth with the types of programs that are most appropriate to their offense, level of risk to reoffend, needs, and strengths; and
•Provides a standardized method of important data collection that can provide the prevalence of some problem areas across youth so resources can be planned accordingly.

SCREENING IS A PROCESS FOR EVALUATING THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF A PARTICULAR PROBLEM. THE OUTCOME IS NORMALLY A SIMPLE YES OR NO.

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ASSESSMENT IS A PROCESS FOR DEFINING THE NATURE OF THAT PROBLEM, DETERMINING A DIAGNOSIS, AND DEVELOPING SPECIFIC TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OR DIAGNOSIS.