

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT CODING DEFINITIONS

### CHILD BEHAVIORAL/EMOTIONAL NEEDS

**Psychosis** – Has the child/adolescent report hearing voices or seeing things that others do not experience?

<i>Check</i>	<b>PSYCHOSIS</b> <i>Please rate based on the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	History or suspicion of hallucinations, delusions or bizarre behavior that might be associated with some form of psychotic disorder.
2	Clear evidence of hallucinations, delusions or bizarre behavior that might be associated with some form of psychotic disorder.
3	Clear evidence of dangerous hallucinations, delusions, or bizarre behavior that might be associated with some form of psychotic disorder which places the child or others at risk of physical harm.

**Impulsivity/hyperactivity**- Does child/adolescent engage in behaviors without thinking, regardless of the consequence? Easily distracted? Fidgets? Runs about or climbs excessively in inappropriate situations?

<i>Check</i>	<b>IMPULSIVITY/HYPERACTIVITY</b> <i>Please rate based on the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	Some problems with impulsive, distractible or hyperactive behavior that places the child at risk of future functioning difficulties.
2	Clear evidence of problems with impulsive, distractible, or hyperactive behavior that interferes with the child’s ability to function in at least one life domain.
3	Clear evidence of a dangerous level of impulsive behavior that can place the child at risk of physical harm.

**Depression**- Does child/adolescent experience depressed or irritable mood most of day, nearly every day? Child experience feelings of worthlessness, fatigue or loss of energy, change in sleeping or eating pattern?

<i>Check</i>	<b>DEPRESSION</b> <i>Please rate based on the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	History or suspicion of depression or mild to moderate depression associated with a recent negative life event with minimal impact on life domain functioning.
2	Clear evidence of depression associated with either depressed mood or significant irritability. Depression has interfered significantly in child’s ability to function in at least one life domain.
3	Clear evidence of disabling level of depression that makes it virtually impossible for the child to function in any life domain.

**Anxiety**-Does child/adolescent constantly worry or dread or have “out of blue” panic attacks in which the child becomes terrified of losing control or dying?

<i>Check</i>	<b>ANXIETY</b> <i>Please rate based on the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	History or suspicion of anxiety problems or mild to moderate anxiety associated with a recent negative life event.
2	Clear evidence of anxiety associated with either anxious mood or significant fearfulness. Anxiety has interfered significantly in child’s ability to function in at least one life domain.
3	Clear evidence of debilitating level of anxiety that makes it virtually impossible for the child to function in any life domain.

**Oppositional**- Does child/adolescent often defy or refuse to comply with adults, authority requests or rules?

<i>Check</i>	<b>OPPOSITIONAL</b> <i>Please rate based on the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	History or recent onset (past 6 weeks) of defiance towards authority figures.
2	Clear evidence of oppositional and/or defiant behavior towards authority figures, which is currently interfering with the child’s functioning in at least one life domain. Behavior causes emotional harm to others.
3	Clear evidence of a dangerous level of oppositional behavior involving the threat of physical harm to others.

**Conduct**- Has child/adolescent displayed acts of aggression towards people or animals, destruction of property, theft or serious violation of rules?

<i>Check</i>	<b>CONDUCT</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	History or suspicion of problems associated with antisocial behavior including but not limited to lying, stealing, manipulating others, sexual aggression, violence towards people, property or animals.
2	Clear evidence of antisocial behavior including but not limited to lying, stealing, manipulating others, sexual aggression, violence towards people, property, or animals.
3	Evidence of a severe level of conduct problems as described above that places the child or community at significant risk of physical harm due to these behaviors.

**Adjustment to trauma-** Has the child/adolescent witnessed, experienced or been confronted with an event(s) that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury and having difficulties adjusting to the traumatic experience?

<i>Check</i>	<b>ADJUSTMENT TO TRAUMA</b> <i>Please rate based on the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	History or suspicion of problems associated with traumatic life event/s.
2	Clear evidence of adjustment problems associated with traumatic life event/s. Adjustment is interfering with child's functioning in at least one life domain.
3	Clear evidence of symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, which may include flashbacks, nightmares, significant anxiety, and intrusive thoughts of trauma experience.

**Anger Control-** Does the child/adolescent have difficulty managing his/her anger and frustration tolerance and experiences anger outbursts?

<i>Check</i>	<b>ANGER CONTROL</b> <i>Please rate based on the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence of any significant anger control problems.
1	Some problems with controlling anger. Child may sometimes become verbally aggressive when frustrated. Peers and family may be aware of and may attempt to avoid stimulating angry outbursts.
2	Moderate anger control problems. Child's temper has gotten him/her in significant trouble with peers, family and/or school. Anger may be associated with physical violence. Others are likely quite aware of anger potential.
3	Severe anger control problems. Child's temper is likely associated with frequent fighting that is often physical. Others likely fear him/her.

**Substance Use-** Does the child/adolescent use any alcohol or drugs? If the child's use causes any functioning problems, then rate child a 2. If child/adolescent is dependent on a substance then score child a 3.

<i>Check</i>	<b>SUBSTANCE USE</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	History or suspicion of substance use.
2	Clear evidence of substance abuse that interferes with functioning in any life domain.
3	Child requires detoxification OR is addicted to alcohol and/or drugs. Include here a child/youth who is intoxicated at the time of the assessment (i.e., currently under the influence).

## CHILD RISK BEHAVIORS

**Suicide Risk**-Does child/adolescent have thoughts or made attempts to kill him/herself?

<i>Check</i>	<b>SUICIDE RISK</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	History but no recent ideation or gesture.
2	Recent ideation or gesture but not in past 24 hours.
3	Current ideation and intent OR command hallucinations that involve self-harm.

**Self Mutilation**-Does child/adolescent have repetitive self injurious behavior such as cutting, carving resulting in physical injury?

<i>Check</i>	<b>SELF-MUTILATION</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	History of self-mutilation.
2	Engaged in self-mutilation that does not require medical attention.
3	Engaged in self-mutilation that requires medical attention.

**Other Self Harm**- Does child/adolescent engage in risky or physical behavior that places the child at harm (reckless driving, subway surfing)?

<i>Check</i>	<b>OTHER SELF HARM</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence of behaviors other than suicide or self-mutilation that place the child at risk of physical harm.
1	History of behavior other than suicide or self-mutilation that places child at risk of physical harm. This includes reckless and risk-taking behavior that may endanger the child.
2	Engaged in behavior other than suicide or self-mutilation that places him/her in danger of physical harm. This includes reckless behavior or intentional risk-taking behavior.
3	Engaged in behavior other than suicide or self-mutilation that places him/her at immediate risk of death. This includes reckless behavior or intentional risk-taking behavior.

**Danger to Others-** Does child/adolescent have the potential to cause significant bodily harm to others ? (a boy threatens to kill his mother with a knife would be rated as a 3)

<i>Check</i>	<b>DANGER TO OTHERS</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the <b>past 30 days</b></i>
0	No evidence
1	History of homicidal ideation, physically harmful aggression or fire setting that has put self or others in danger of harm.
2	Recent homicidal ideation, physically harmful aggression, or dangerous fire setting but not in past 24 hours.
3	Acute homicidal ideation with a plan or physically harmful aggression OR command hallucinations that involve the harm of others. Or, child set a fire that placed others at significant risk of harm.

**Sexual Aggression-** Does the child/adolescent have sexually aggressive behavior - molestation, penetration or rape, harassing or sexual language towards others?

<i>Check</i>	<b>SEXUAL AGGRESSION</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the <b>past 30 days</b></i>
0	No evidence of any history of sexually aggressive behavior. No sexual activity with younger children, non-consenting others, or children not able to understand consent.
1	History of sexually aggressive behavior (but not in past year) OR sexually inappropriate behavior in the past year that troubles others such as harassing talk or excessive masturbation.
2	Child is engaged in sexually aggressive behavior in the past year but not in the past 30 days.
3	Child has engaged in sexually aggressive behavior in the past 30 days.

**Runaway-**Child/adolescent experience ideation about running away or has actual running away behaviors?

<i>Check</i>	<b>RUNAWAY</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the <b>past 30 days</b></i>
0	No evidence
1	History of runaway from home or other settings involving at least one overnight absence, at least 30 days ago.
2	Recent runaway behavior or ideation but not in past 7 days.
3	Acute threat to runaway as manifest by either recent attempts OR significant ideation about running away OR child is currently a runaway.

**Delinquency**-Does child/adolescent experience acts of delinquency placing self or others at risk which may or may not result in legal involvement?

<i>Check</i>	<b>DELINQUENCY</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	History of delinquency but no acts of delinquency in past 30 days.
2	Recent acts of delinquency.
3	Severe acts of delinquency that places others at risk of significant loss or injury or place child at risk of adult sanctions.

**Judgment**- Does child/adolescent display poor decision making skills placing self or others at risk of physical or other types of harm? (dare devil tricks, shoplifting)

<i>Check</i>	<b>JUDGMENT</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence of problems with judgment or poor decision making that result in harm to development and/or well-being.
1	History of problems with judgment in which the child makes decisions that are in some way harmful to his/her development and/or well-being. For example, a child who has a history of hanging out with other children who shoplift.
2	Problems with judgment in which the child makes decisions that are in some way harmful to his/her development and/or well-being.
3	Problems with judgment that place the child at risk of significant physical harm.

**Fire Setting**- Does child intentionally start fires using matches or other devices? Has a fire setting eval been completed?

<i>Check</i>	<b>FIRE SETTING</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence
1	History of fire setting but not in the past six months.
2	Recent fire setting behavior (in past six months) but not of the type that has endangered the lives of others OR repeated fire-setting behavior over a period of at least two years even if not in the past six months.
3	Acute threat of fire setting. Set fire that endangered the lives of others (e.g. attempting to burn down a house).

**Social Behavior-** Does child/adolescent display inappropriate behaviors to authority figures, peers, family members (cursing loudly in public, bullying or threatening others)

<i>Check</i>	<b>SOCIAL BEHAVIOR</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence of problematic social behavior.
1	Mild level of problematic social behavior. This might include occasional inappropriate social behavior. Comments to strangers or unusual behavior in social settings might be included in this level.
2	Moderate level of problematic social behavior. For example, frequent cursing in public would be rated here.
3	Severe level of problematic social behavior. Child's social behavior places him/her at risk for serious sanctions (e.g. suspension, expulsion from school, loss of foster home).. For example, threatening others would be rated here.

**LIFE DOMAIN FUNCTIONING**

**Family-**Is child/adolescent able to function appropriately and productively within his/her family(whoever the child describes as their family)?

<i>Check</i>	<b>FAMILY</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Child is doing well in relationships with family members.
1	Child is doing adequately in relationships with family members although some problems may exist. For example, some family members may have some problems in their relationships with child.
2	Child is having moderate problems with parents, siblings and/or other family members. Frequent arguing, difficulties in maintaining any positive relationship may be observed.
3	Child is having severe problems with parents, siblings, and/or other family members. This would include problems of domestic violence, constant arguing, etc.

**Living Situation-**How does the child/adolescent functioning in his/her living situation?

<i>Check</i>	<b>LIVING SITUATION</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	No evidence of problem with functioning in current living environment.
1	Mild problems with functioning in current living situation. Caregivers concerned about child's behavior at home.
2	Moderate to severe problems with functioning in current living situation. Child has difficulties maintaining his/her behavior in this setting creating significant problems for others in the residence.
3	Profound problems with functioning in current living situation. Child is at immediate risk of being removed from living situation due to his/her behaviors.

**School-**How doe the child/adolescent function in school regarding teachers, peers, is child truant, is school placement in jeopardy due to behavior?

<i>Check</i>	<b>SCHOOL</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Child is performing well in school.
1	Child is performing adequately in school although some problems may exist.
2	Child is experiencing moderate problems with school attendance, behavior, and/or achievement.
3	Child is experiencing severe problems in school with school attendance, behavior and/or achievement.

**Social Development-** Does child/adolescent display age appropriate relationships and social skills?

<i>Check</i>	<b>SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Child is on a healthy social development pathway.
1	Child is having some minor problems with his/her social development.
2	Child is having some moderate problems with his/her social development.
3	Child is experiencing severe disruptions in his/her social development.

**Recreation-** Is child/adolescent able to identify positive leisure time activities in which the child/adolescent participates?

<i>Check</i>	<b>RECREATION</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Child has and enjoys positive recreation activities on an ongoing basis.
1	Child is doing adequately with recreational activities although some problems may exist.
2	Child is having moderate problems with recreational activities. Child may experience some problems with effective use of leisure time.
3	Child has no access to or interest in recreational activities. Child has significant difficulties making use of leisure time.

**Development-** Does child/adolescent have developmental delays or disabilities? What is the child's IQ?

<i>Check</i>	<b>DEVELOPMENTAL</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Child has no developmental problems.
1	Child has some problems with physical immaturity or there are concerns about possible developmental delay. Child may have low IQ.
2	Child has developmental delays or mild mental retardation.
3	Child has severe and pervasive developmental delays or profound mental retardation.

**Vocational**-How is child/adolescent doing in a job or in job related functions? If no job, does the child/youth have vocational or pre-vocational skills?

<i>Check</i>	<b>VOCATIONAL</b> Please rate the highest level from the <i>past 30 days</i>
0	Child has a job or a clear vocational plan that has been implemented.
1	Child has vocational or prevocational skills and interests.
2	Child has significant problems with his/her development of vocational or prevocational skills.
3	Child has no known vocational interests or skills.

**Legal**-What is child's involvement with the juvenile justice system?

<i>Check</i>	<b>LEGAL</b> Please rate the highest level from the <i>past 30 days</i>
0	Child has no known legal difficulties.
1	Child has a history of legal problems but currently is not involved with the legal system.
2	Child has some legal problems and is currently involved in the legal system.
3	Child has serious current or pending legal difficulties that place him/her at risk for a court ordered out of home placement.

**Medical**-Does child/adolescent have a current health condition? Treatable should be listed as a 1, Chronic conditions (diabetes, severe asthma) should be listed as a 2, and 3 should be reserved for life threatening conditions.

<i>Check</i>	<b>MEDICAL</b> Please rate the highest level from the <i>past 30 days</i>
0	Child is healthy.
1	Child has some medical problems that require medical treatment.
2	Child has chronic illness that requires ongoing medical intervention.
3	Child has life threatening illness or medical condition.

**Physical**- Does child have any physical limitations (vision, hearing problems)?

<i>Check</i>	<b>PHYSICAL</b> Please rate the highest level from the <i>past 30 days</i>
0	Child has no physical limitations.
1	Child has some physical condition that places mild limitations on activities. Conditions such as impaired hearing or vision would be rated here. Rate here, treatable medical conditions that result in physical limitations (e.g. asthma).
2	Child has physical condition that notably impacts activities. Sensory disorders such as blindness, deafness, or significant motor difficulties would be rated here.
3	Child has severe physical limitations due to multiple physical conditions.

**Sexuality-** Does child/adolescent experience any difficulties with sexual behavior, sexual identity, sexual concerns?

<i>Check</i>	<b>SEXUALITY</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Child has healthy sexual development.
1	Child has some issues with sexual development but these do not interfere with his/her functioning in other life domains.
2	Child has problems with sexual development that interfere with his/her functioning in other life domains.
3	Child has severe problems with sexual development.

**Relationship Permanence-**Is the child/adolescent able to develop, maintain relationships at home, in school and/or in his/her community?

<i>Check</i>	<b>RELATIONSHIP PERMANENCE</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days. This rating refers to the stability of significant relationships in the child or youth's life. This likely includes family members but may also include other individuals.</i>
0	This level indicates a child who has very stable relationships. Family members, friends, and community have been stable for most of child's life and are likely to remain so in the foreseeable future. Child is involved with both parents.
1	This level indicates a child who has had stable relationships but there is some concern about instability in the near future (one year) due to transitions, illness, or age. A stable relationship with only one parent may be rated here.
2	This level indicates a child has had at least one stable relationship over his/her lifetime but has experienced other instability through factors such as divorce, moving, removal from home, and death.
3	This level indicates a child who does not have any stability in relationships with any caregiver. Independent living or adoption must be considered.

### CAREGIVER NEEDS

**Physical-**Does the caregiver experience any physical conditions which interfere with his/her ability to care for child?

<i>Check</i>	<b>PHYSICAL</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Caregiver is generally healthy.
1	Caregiver is in recovery from medical/physical problems.
2	Caregiver has medical/physical problems that interfere with their capacity to parent.
3	Caregiver has medical/physical problems that make it impossible for them to parent at this time.

**Mental Health-** Does the caregiver have a mental health condition that interferes with his/her ability to care for child? If so, is the mental health issue under control (with medications or otherwise)?

<i>Check</i>	<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Caregiver has no mental health needs.
1	Caregiver is in recovery from mental health difficulties.
2	Caregiver has some mental health difficulties that interfere with their capacity to parent.
3	Caregiver has mental health difficulties that make it impossible for them to parent at this time.

**Substance Use-** Does caregiver use alcohol or drugs that interfere with his/her ability to parent?

<i>Check</i>	<b>SUBSTANCE USE</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Caregiver has no substance use needs.
1	Caregiver is in recovery from substance use difficulties.
2	Caregiver has some substance use difficulties that interfere with their capacity to parent.
3	Caregiver has substance use difficulties that make it impossible for them to parent at this time.

**Developmental-** Does the caregiver have a developmental disability or challenges (physical, cognitive, social, etc.) that interfere with his/her capacity provide adequate guidance and/or parenting?

<i>Check</i>	<b>DEVELOPMENTAL</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Caregiver has no developmental needs.
1	Caregiver has developmental challenges but they do not currently interfere with parenting.
2	Caregiver has developmental challenges that interfere with their capacity to parent.
3	Caregiver has severe developmental challenges that make it impossible for them to parent at this time.

**Safety - Does** the household (i.e., neglect) or someone in the child’s living situation (a parent, sibling, caregiver, relative) present a danger to the child?

<i>Check</i>	<b>SAFETY</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Household is safe and secure. Child is at no risk from others.
1	Household is safe but concerns exist about the safety of the child in his/her neighborhood.
2	Child is in some danger from one or more individuals who have access to the household.
3	Child is in immediate danger from one or more individuals with unsupervised access.

**\*All referrants are legally required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to DYFS at 800-792-8610.**

### CAREGIVER STRENGTHS

**Supervision-**Is caregiver able to provide monitoring and discipline to the child?

<i>Check</i>	<b>SUPERVISION</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Caregiver has good monitoring and discipline skills.
1	Caregiver provides generally adequate supervision. May need occasional help or technical assistance.
2	Caregiver reports difficulties monitoring and/or disciplining child. Caregiver needs assistance to improve supervision skills.
3	Caregiver is unable to monitor or discipline the child. Caregiver requires immediate and continuing assistance. Child is at risk of harm to self due to absence of supervision.

**Involvement-** Is the caregiver able to advocate and seek assistance for the child, when needed?

<i>Check</i>	<b>INVOLVEMENT</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Caregiver is able to act as an effective advocate for child.
1	Caregiver has history of seeking help for child. Caregiver is open to receiving support, education, and information.
2	Caregiver does not wish to participate in services and/or interventions intended to assist child.
3	Caregiver wishes for child to be removed from their care.

**Knowledge-**Does the caregiver understand the child and his/her unique needs/strengths/challenges?

<i>Check</i>	<b>KNOWLEDGE</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Caregiver is knowledgeable about the child's needs and strengths.
1	Caregiver is generally knowledgeable about the child but may require additional information to improve their capacity to parent.
2	Caregiver has clear need for information to improve how knowledgeable they are about the child. Current lack of information is interfering with their ability to parent.
3	Caregiver has knowledge problems that place the child at risk of significant negative outcomes.

**Organization-** Is the caregiver responsible and able to organize and manage the household?

<i>Check</i>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Caregiver is well organized and efficient.
1	Caregiver has minimal difficulties with organizing and maintaining household to support needed services. For example, may be forgetful about appointments or occasionally fails to return case/care manager calls.
2	Caregiver has moderate difficulty organizing and maintaining household to support needed services.
3	Caregiver is unable to organize household to support needed services.

**Social Resources-** Does the caregiver access social supports (family, friends, etc.) in his/her community/environment that can be of assistance, when needed, with the child/youth?

<i>Check</i>	<b>SOCIAL RESOURCES</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days</i>
0	Caregiver has significant family and friend social network that actively helps with raising the child (e.g., child rearing).
1	Caregiver has some family or friend social network that actively help with raising the child (e.g. child rearing).
2	Caregiver has some family or friend social network that may be able to help with raising the child (e.g., child rearing).
3	Caregiver has no family or social network that may be able to help with raising the child (e.g. child rearing).

**Residential Stability**-Is the caregiver able to provide stable housing for child?

<i>Check</i>	<b>RESIDENTIAL STABILITY</b> <i>Please rate the highest level from the <b>past 30 days</b></i>
0	Caregiver has stable housing for the foreseeable future.
1	Caregiver has relatively stable housing but either has moved in the past three months or there are indications of housing problems that might force them to move in the next three months.
2	Caregiver has moved multiple times in the past year. Housing is unstable.
3	Caregiver has experienced periods of homelessness in the past six months.

G:\\Residential Unit – DYFS Training Document – Needs Assessment