



State Court Administrative Office

Juvenile Justice Screening and Assessment Tools Guidelines

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I. OVERVIEW

a. Background and Authority

On June 9, 2021, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed *Executive Order 2021-6*¹ establishing the Michigan Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform (Task Force). The Task Force was charged with “conducting a comprehensive and data-driven needs assessment of Michigan’s juvenile justice system, complete with recommendations for changes in state law, policy, and appropriations to improve youth outcomes.” The Task Force recommendations were guided by the following objectives:

- Safely reduce placement in detention and residential placement and associated costs.
- Increase the safety and wellbeing of youth impacted by the juvenile justice system.
- Reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth impacted by the juvenile justice system.
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the state and county juvenile justice systems.
- Increase accountability and transparency withing the juvenile justice systems.
- Better align practices with research and constitutional mandates.

The Task Force issued their final report and recommendations² on July 22, 2022. Many of the recommendations from the Task Force focused on the use of screening and assessment tools to help inform and guide the decision-making process at various points throughout a juvenile delinquency case. These include requiring the use of a validated risk screening tool and validated mental health screening tool to inform diversion and consent calendar decisions, a validated risk and needs assessment to be used to inform dispositional recommendations, and a statewide detention screening tool to be used prior to any decision to detain a youth. The Michigan Justice for Kids and Communities bill package was passed on December 12, 2023, as a result of the recommendations from the Task Force. In addition to the enacted legislation, corresponding court rules were added and amended to reflect the requirement for the use of screening and assessment tools, identified by the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), or in compliance with SCAO guidelines, at various decision-making points throughout a juvenile delinquency case.

Effective October 1, 2024, Michigan courts are required to conduct screenings and risk and needs assessments on justice-involved youth at various decision-making points to help inform decisions. The SCAO is required to create, and courts are required to comply with guidelines on the use of the screening tools and risk and needs assessments.

Relevant Statutes: [MCL 400.117a](#), [MCL 712A.15](#), [MCL 712A.18](#), [MCL 712A.2f](#), [MCL 722.823](#), [MCL 722.826](#), [MCL 722.829](#)

¹ [Executive Order 2021-6: Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform](#)

² [Michigan Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform Report and Recommendations](#)

Relevant Court Rules: [MCR 3.907](#), [MCR 3.922\(B\)\(4\)\(a\)](#), [MCR 3.932\(A\)](#), [MCR 3.932\(C\)\(2\)](#), [MCR 3.933\(B\)](#), [MCR 3.935\(B\)\(3\)](#), [MCR 3.935\(C\)-\(E\)](#), [MCR 3.943\(E\)\(1\)](#), [MCR 3.944\(B\)\(6\)](#), [MCR 3.944\(E\)\(2\)](#), [MCR 3.955\(B\)](#)

b. Purpose of Screening and Assessment Tools

Screening and assessment tools provide objective data that helps to inform decision-making and facilitate targeted interventions, with a goal of improving outcomes for individuals and communities. The purpose of screening tools, when it comes to criminogenic risk, is to determine the likelihood in which a youth will engage in future delinquent behavior. The purpose of a risk and needs assessment is to gather detailed information to inform case planning and connect appropriate services to the risk and needs level of the youth. The following are some of the key purposes of screening and assessment tools:

- Identification of issues, conditions, or concerns.
- Treatment planning by way of personalized case plans targeting areas of highest need.
- Monitoring progress over time through reassessment to measure the effectiveness of interventions.
- Resource allocation by identifying those with the highest needs and matching those with resources available.
- Research and evaluation to gather data to study trends and effectiveness of interventions.

c. Differences Between Screening and Assessing

Screening is a process used to identify potential issues or risks, while assessment involves a more detailed and comprehensive examination of an individual's characteristics, circumstances, and needs.

Screening often serves as a first step to identify the possible presence of an issue, leading to further assessment if indicated, while assessment informs intervention planning. Screening aims to quickly and efficiently identify whether individuals have certain characteristics, conditions, or risk factors. Screening often serves as a decision point, determining whether individuals need a more comprehensive assessment.

Assessment is a process used to define the nature of a problem and develop specific treatment recommendations for addressing the problem. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the individual's strengths, weaknesses, and areas for intervention. Assessment results are used to guide decision-making about the most appropriate strategies to address the individual's needs effectively and develop personalized treatment plans for interventions.³

³ [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges "Differences Between Screening and Assessment"](#)

d. Screening and Assessment Tool Requirements

Michigan laws require the use of screening and assessment tools on justice-involved youth at certain decision points. More detailed information on the use of screening and assessment tools is provided in the Case Processing section.

i. Diversion Screening Tools

[MCL 722.823\(5\)](#) requires a law enforcement official or court intake worker to use the results of a risk screening tool and a mental health screening tool to inform a decision to divert a youth.

[MCL 722.823\(6\)](#): A risk screening tool and a mental health screening tool must meet both of the following requirements:

- Be research based and nationally validated for use with minors.
- Comply with the SCAO guidelines.

ii. Consent Calendar Screening Tools

[MCL 712A.2f\(2\)](#) requires that a case must not be placed on the consent calendar unless the court considers the results of a risk screening tool and mental health screening tool.

[MCL 712A.2f\(3\)](#): A risk screening tool and a mental health screening tool must meet both of the following requirements:

- Be research based and nationally validated for use with juveniles.
- Comply with the SCAO guidelines.

iii. Risk and Needs Assessments for Formal Jurisdiction/Probation

[MCL 712A.18\(9\)](#) requires a designated individual or agency to conduct a risk and needs assessment for each youth before disposition and that the results be used to determine the most appropriate disposition for the youth.

[MCL 712A.18\(12\)](#): A risk and needs assessment must meet both of the following requirements:

- Be research based and nationally validated for use with juveniles.
- Comply with the SCAO guidelines.

iv. Detention Screening Tool

[MCL 712A.15\(3\)](#) requires that before detaining a youth in a secure facility, the court must consult the results of the detention screening tool and follow any rules regarding its use that are promulgated by the supreme court. The law further requires the SCAO to determine the appropriate detention screening tool. Additionally, [MCR 3.933](#), [MCR 3.935](#), and [MCR 3.944](#) require the court to consult the results of the detention screening tool before detaining a youth in a secure facility. A new detention screening tool must be conducted prior to each placement in a secure facility.

v. National Validation

The SCAO recognizes that there is no definition of the term “nationally validated” currently in the Michigan Court Rules, nor is it defined in any statute. A definition of the term “nationally validated” was developed and approved through the work of the Juvenile Justice Partnership Committee as the following: “a screening tool or risk and needs assessment that has been independently validated for use with minors or juveniles as determined by an independent research-based national peer review and has been authorized for use in more than one state.”

II. SCAO APPROVED AND SELECTED TOOLS

See Appendix A for detailed information regarding each of the listed tools.

Use of additional specialized tools for specific areas of need, such as sexual offender behavior, substance use disorders, etc. are permissible. The SCAO will conduct periodic reviews of all approved screening and assessment tools to ensure that they continue to meet the requirements set forth by statute. These periodic reviews will also consider other newly suggested or developed tools for addition to the list of approved tools.

a. SCAO Approved Risk Screening Tools

The SCAO approved list of risk screening tools that meet the criteria as set forth in the statutes include:

- **MJJAS/OYAS-DIV** (Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System/Ohio Youth Assessment System)
- **YASI – Pre-Screen** (Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument)
- **YLS/CMI Short Form** (Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory)

b. SCAO Approved Mental Health Screening Tools

The SCAO approved list of mental health screening tools that meet the criteria as set forth in the statutes include:

- **CAFAS** (Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale)
- **CANS** (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths)
- **MAYSI-2** (Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument)
- **PSC** (Pediatric Symptom Checklist)

c. SCAO Approved Risk and Needs Assessment

The SCAO approved list of risk and needs assessment tools that meet the criteria as set forth in the statutes include:

- **MJJAS/OYAS** (Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System/Ohio Youth Assessment System)
- **YASI** (Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument)
- **YLS/CMI** (Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory)

d. SCAO Selected Detention Screening Tool

- **MJJAS/OYAS-DET** (Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System/Ohio Youth Assessment System)

III. USE OF APPROVED AND SELECTED TOOLS

a. Administrative

- Courts must establish clear policies and procedures for the administration of screenings and assessments on justice-involved youth. (See Appendix B) When developing local policies and procedures for the administration of screening and assessment tools, courts must include in their submitted plan the following factors, utilizing the attached template: The designated individual or agency tasked with conducting the screening and assessment tools.
- The training required for the chosen tools to ensure each designated individual or agency has completed the proper training.
- Identification of the decision-making points in where each screening and assessment tool is to be conducted (See Appendix C and D).
- The process for sharing the results of the screenings and assessments.
- Identify to whom the screening and assessment results are shared.
- The process for using the screening and assessment results to assist with decision making.
- Defining specific circumstances or criteria under which exceptions or overrides may be warranted.
 - For example, exceptions or overrides may be limited to overriding the supervision level as opposed to the risk score with considerations given to additional factors, including but not limited to, the following:
 - Severity of the offense.
 - Mitigating circumstances.
 - Public safety.
 - Youth’s needs.
- The process for documenting when an exception or override occurs to include results of the screening and assessment tools, specific factors considered, and decision-making process followed.
- The process for reassessment.

- Identify the specific data to be collected regarding the use of and results of the screening and assessment tools and the process for reporting data to the SCAO and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Should a county choose to change to a different screening or assessment tool from the one in their SCAO-reviewed plan, the county shall submit an updated plan outlining the changes as soon as practicable for review and consideration by the SCAO.

b. Case Processing

i. Risk Screening and Mental Health Screening Tools for Diversion or Consent Calendar

Prior to the utilization of diversion or placement on the consent calendar, a risk screening and mental health screening tool must be conducted by a designated individual or agency and the results considered. [[MCL 712A.2F](#), [MCL 722.826](#)]

1. Diversion

When a petition has not yet been authorized for a youth, [MCL 722.823](#) authorizes a law enforcement officer or court intake worker to determine if the youth should be diverted from the juvenile court system.

In making this determination, [MCL 722.823\(4\)](#) requires a risk screening and mental health screening tool to be conducted on the minor, unless the minor is accused of or charged with a specified violation or is currently under the supervision by the court or the MDHHS as they are not eligible for diversion under the Diversion Act. In order for a minor to be diverted, the law enforcement officer or court intake worker must receive the results of the risk screening and mental health screening, and they must use the results along with the best interest of the public to inform the decision to divert. [MCL 722.824](#) includes additional factors to be considered when making the determination to utilize diversion:

- The nature of the alleged offense.
- The minor's age.
- The nature of the problem that led to the alleged offense.
- The minor's character and conduct.
- The minor's behavior in school, family, and group settings.
- Any prior diversion decisions made concerning the minor and the nature of the minor's compliance with the diversion agreement.

When a decision is made to divert a youth, [MCL 722.826](#) requires the law enforcement official or court intake worker to file the following information with the court:

- The minor's name, address, and date of birth.
- The act or offense for which the minor was apprehended.
- The date and place of the act or offense for which the minor was apprehended.

- The diversion decision made, whether referred or released.
- The nature of the minor’s compliance with the diversion agreement.
- The time period to complete the terms of the diversion agreement and, if the period exceeds 3 months, the determination that a longer period is necessary for the minor to complete a specific treatment program.
- The results of the minor’s risk screening tool and mental health screening tool.

2. Consent Calendar

[MCL 712A.2f\(2\)](#) provides that a case must not be placed on the consent calendar unless the juvenile and parent/guardian/custodian and the prosecutor agree, the court considers results of the risk screening tool and mental health screening tool conducted on the juvenile by a designated individual or agency that is trained in those screening tools, and the court determines that the case should proceed on the consent calendar in compliance with [MCL 712A.11\(1\)](#).

[MCL 712A.2f](#) and [MCL 722.823](#) require a risk screening and mental health screening tool be conducted on a minor before placement on the consent calendar or utilization of diversion. Further, risk screening and mental health screening tools should be conducted on a single use basis and therefore do not require reassessments throughout a case.

ii. Risk and Needs Assessments for Disposition

[MCL 712A.18\(9\)](#) requires the use of a risk and needs assessment for each juvenile prior to disposition. [MCL 712A.18\(11\)](#) and [MCR 3.907\(E\)\(4\)](#) further requires that a new risk and needs assessment for the juvenile be conducted, shared and used to inform decision making, if any of the following conditions occur:

- Six months have passed since the juvenile’s last risk and needs assessment.
- The juvenile experiences a major life event.
- There is a major change in the juvenile’s proceedings.

The above reflect the minimum requirements for reassessment based upon the statute. Courts must also comply with the requirements for reassessment based upon the selected tool.

1. Sharing of Results

[MCL 712A.18\(9\)](#) requires that the results of the risk and needs assessment, and a dispositional recommendation made by the designated individual or agency that performed the risk and needs assessment be shared with the court, the juvenile, the juvenile’s attorney, and the prosecuting attorney.

[MCR 3.907\(E\)\(2\)](#) requires the results of the risk and needs assessment, along with a written dispositional recommendation, to be filed with the court and provided to the juvenile, juvenile’s attorney, and prosecuting attorney no less than 7 days before the dispositional hearing. The written recommendation must include all of the following:

- Overall risk score.
- Type of supervision.
- Level of supervision.
- Length of supervision.
- Specific terms and conditions, including, but not limited to, frequency of reviews and requirements for early termination of supervision.

2. Decision Making

[MCL 712A.18\(9\)](#) and [MCR 3.907\(E\)\(1\)](#) provides that the results of the risk and needs assessment must be used to inform a dispositional recommendation and determine the most appropriate disposition for the juvenile considering all of the following factors:

- The least restrictive setting possible.
- Public safety.
- Victim interest.
- Rehabilitation of the juvenile.
- Improved juvenile outcomes, including but not limited to, education advancement.

In accordance with [MCL 712A.18\(10\)](#) and [MCR 3.907\(3\)](#), the court must consider the results of the risk and needs assessment when making dispositional decisions regarding the juvenile including, but not limited to, any of the following decisions:

- Whether to place a juvenile under supervision, including the length, level, and conditions of supervision.
- Whether to place a juvenile on probation.
- Whether to place a juvenile in out-of-home care.

iii. Detention Screening Tool

[MCL 712A.15\(3\)](#) and [MCR 3.935](#) require that before a juvenile may be detained in a secure facility, an individual or designated agency must use the detention screening tool identified by the SCAO on the juvenile. The MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool is the identified tool.

1. Sharing of Results

[MCR 3.907\(D\)](#) requires the court to share the results of the detention screening tool with all parties at least 7 days before a detention hearing as provided in [MCR 3.922\(B\)\(4\)](#).

2. Decision Making

[MCL 712A.15\(3\)](#) and [MCR 3.907\(D\)](#) requires the court to consider the results of the detention screening tool before a juvenile may be detained in a secure facility pending a hearing. A new tool must be used and considered for each placement in a secure facility.

[MCR 3.933](#) requires that when an order to apprehend the juvenile has been issued, prior to detaining the juvenile in a secure facility, the court must consider the results of the detention screening tool.

[MCR 3.944](#) requires that when a juvenile has been found to have violated a court order under [MCL 712A.2\(a\)\(2\)-\(4\)](#), the court must consider the results of the detention screening tool prior to detaining the juvenile in a secure facility.

iv. Case Planning

Risk and needs assessments must be used to drive an individual case plan. A case plan is a guide and agreement for both the court and the youth. A case plan provides information regarding expected outcomes, goals, and services for the youth. A case plan is a roadmap to successful completion of juvenile court supervision.

The case plan should align with the youth's risk level whenever possible. Low-risk youth should receive the least number of services and lowest level of supervision and high-risk youth should receive the greatest number of services (and potentially intensive service) and the highest level of supervision. Additionally, services should be focused on the areas which scored highest needs.

Any deviation in the supervision level must be noted with a detailed explanation.

c. Initial and Ongoing Training on Screening and Assessment Tools

All designated individuals or agency users who will be administering a screening tool or an assessment tool must be formally trained on the tool, how to administer it, and how to interpret the results prior to use and in accordance with the requirements of the selected tool. Proper training will ensure fidelity of the selected tool and aid in the understanding of the results and how to use the results to inform decision-making at various points in a case. Continuous training on the chosen tool(s) must occur as recommended by the vendor in order to ensure inter-rater reliability and fidelity of the selected tool.

d. Confidentiality and Inadmissibility

To facilitate open and honest responses, as well as to promote the accuracy of the tools, [MCL 712A.15\(3\)](#), [MCL 712A.18\(15\)](#), [MCL 712A.2f\(7\)\(c\)](#), [MCL 722.829\(3\)](#), and [MCR 3.907\(F\)](#) provide a level of protection regarding any statements, admissions, confessions, or incriminating evidence obtained from the juvenile while conducting the risk screening tool, mental screening tool, detention screening tool, and the risk and needs assessment. This includes protection from such statements being admissible in an adjudicatory hearing, being subject to a subpoena, or being used in any other court proceeding or for any other purpose.

e. Data Collection and Reporting Requirements

Effective July 1, 2026, courts will be required to submit juvenile case level data and data related to the use of screening and assessment tools as identified by the SCAO quarterly, either through the YouthCenter Data Management System or through the use of the SCAO-developed spreadsheet.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Approved and Selected Screening and Assessment Tools Information

Appendix B – Written Policy and Procedures for
Use of Screening and Assessment Tools Template

Appendix C – Sample Screening and Assessment Tool Flowchart

Appendix D – Sample Detention Screening Tool Flowchart

APPENDIX A

Approved and Selected Screening and Assessment Tools Information

MJJAS/OYAS (Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System/Ohio Youth Assessment System)

MJJAS/OYAS is a research-based, validated assessment instrument developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) and is also known as the Ohio Youth Assessment System © (OYAS). The MDHHS contracts with UCCI to utilize the OYAS and refer to the risk assessment as the MJJAS.⁴

MJJAS/OYAS is a structured decision-making risk assessment tool which identifies the likelihood of a youth engaging in future criminal behavior and informs appropriate risk classification. MJJAS/OYAS has a suite of tools which include Diversion (MJJAS/OYAS-DIV), Detention (MJJAS/OYAS-DET), Disposition (MJJAS/OYAS-DIS), Residential (MJJAS/OYAS-RES), and Reentry (MJJAS/OYAS-RET).⁵

- MJJAS/OYAS-DIV is designed to help determine if youth can be safely diverted from the juvenile justice system. The tool can be completed through a file review and/or face-to-face interview with the youth in approximately 10 minutes.
- MJJAS/OYAS-DIS is designed to be used with youth adjudicated by the court. The tool considers the youth's overall risk to reoffend and criminogenic needs, while also identifying responsivity factors and case management strategies to facilitate successful intervention. The tool consists of seven domains including: juvenile justice history; family and living arrangements; peers and social support networks; education and employment; pro-social skills; substance abuse, mental health, and personality; and values, beliefs, and attitudes.
- MJJAS/OYAS-DET is designed to be administered on youth being considered for detention, to aid in the decision on whether to place the youth. The results will provide the court with the level of risk the youth poses. The tool can also be used on the back-end in determining whether to release a youth or continue their placement in detention. The tool consists of 6 items and can be completed through a brief face-to-face interview, which takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. The MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool is the identified tool for use in Michigan.

Training and certification are required to administer all tools included in the MJJAS/OYAS suite.

YASI (Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument)

YASI is a juvenile risk assessment tool that assesses risk, needs, and protective factors in at-risk and justice-involved youth.⁶ The YASI looks to identify both the dynamic (changeable) and static (unchangeable) risk factors of youth to assist professionals with determining risk to recidivate, manage caseloads, and target services to youth with higher needs. YASI is specifically designed for youth and includes research-based predictors of delinquent behavior and critical factors in

⁴ [Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System \(MJJAS\) Fiscal Year 2023 Statistics and Fiscal Year 2024 Training Plan](#)

⁵ [University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute OYAS Overview](#)

⁶ [Orbis Partners: YASITM](#)

promoting outcomes. The information collected during assessment guides the creation of a case plan tailored to each youth's identified needs and strengths.⁷

The YASI includes both a pre-screen and full assessment which are used to assist in making initial service decisions as well as case plan development. Youth are rated as low, medium, or high risk to reoffend and is appropriate for use on youth between the ages of 12 and 18.⁸

- YASI pre-screen consists of 31 items and can be completed in approximately 20-40 minutes.
- YASI full assessment consists of 90 items scored across 10 domains: legal history; family; school; community and peers; alcohol and drugs; mental health; violence and aggression; attitudes; skills; and employment and free time. It takes between 30 and 60 minutes to administer.

Training and certification are required to administer both YASI pre-screen and full assessment.

YLS/CMI (Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory)

YLS/CMI 2.0TM is a gender-informed, culturally informed, strengths-focused risk/needs tool that classifies and predicts re-offending within male and female juvenile populations.⁹ The tool is appropriate for use on youth between the ages of 12 and 18.

YLS/CMI 2.0TM consists of 42 risk/needs factors scored across 8 domains: prior and current offenses; family circumstances/parenting; education/employment; peer relations; substance abuse; leisure/recreation; personality/behavior; and attitudes/orientation. Information from the YLS can be utilized to assist probation departments in determining the appropriate level of supervision for youth, help establish case plan goals, and to better allocate department resources in order to achieve the effective outcomes for youth and their families.¹⁰ The YLS/CMI full assessment also has a short-form available for use in risk screening.

Training and certification are required to administer both the YLS/CMI short form and full assessment.

CAFAS (Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale)

CAFAS is used in assessing a youth's day-to-day functioning across critical life subscales and for determining whether a youth's functioning improves over time. The CAFAS is widely used to inform decisions about level of care, type and intensity of treatment, placement, and need for referral. CAFAS is designed for ages 5 to 19 and can be quickly completed by practitioners in 10 minutes.¹¹

Training and certification are required to administer the tool.

⁷ [Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System Youth Justice: Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument \(YASI\)](#)

⁸ [Risk Management Authority: Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument \(YASI\)](#)

⁹ [Multi-Health-Systems: YLS/CMITM 2.0](#)

¹⁰ [Juvenile Court Judge's Commission: Youth Level of Services Inventory \(YLS 2.\) Ratings & User Guide](#)

¹¹ [Functional Assessment Systems: Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale - CAFAS](#)

CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths)

CANS is a multi-purpose tool developed for children's services to support decision making, including level of care and service planning, to facilitate quality improvement initiatives, and to allow for the monitoring of outcomes of services. A rating of 2 or 3 on a CANS needs suggests that this area must be addressed in the plan. A rating of a 0 or 1 identifies a strength that can be used for strength-based planning. CANS dimensions scores have been shown to be valid outcome measures in residential treatment, intensive community treatment, foster care and treatment foster care, community mental health, and juvenile justice programs.¹² The CANS is designed to be used on youth ages 6 to 20.

Training and certification are required to administer the tool.

Please note that the CANS is not currently eligible for Child Care Fund reimbursement.

MAYSI-2 (Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument)

The MAYSI-2 is a behavioral health screening tool designed especially for juvenile justice programs and facilities. It identifies youths 12 through 17 years old who may have important, pressing behavioral needs. Its primary use is in juvenile probation, diversion programs, and intake in juvenile detention or corrections.¹³

The MAYSI-2 is a self-report inventory of 52 questions which provide scores in the following 7 scales: alcohol/drug use; angry-irritable; depressed-anxious; somatic complaints; suicide ideation; thought disturbance; traumatic experiences. The MAYSI-2 can be completed by a youth in 5-10 minutes.

Formal training and certification are not required to administer the tool, provided the user knows and attends to its proper administration according to the MAYSI-2 manual, although formal training is available on the use of the tool.

PSC (Pediatric Symptom Checklist)

The PSC is a brief questionnaire that helps identify and assess changes in emotional and behavioral problems in children. The PSC covers a broad range of emotional and behavioral problems and is meant to provide an assessment of psychosocial functioning.¹⁴ The PSC is one of the most widely used screening tools for this purpose. It is an easy-to-use tool that is broadly valid and reliable, meeting a growing array of therapeutic, research and administrative assessment needs in a wide range of clinical, educational and public settings.

The PSC is comprised of a 35-item parent-reported questionnaire and a youth self-report, which are also translated into more than two dozen languages. A pictorial version and a shorter 17-item version are also available for both parents and youth.

Training and certification are not required in order to administer the tool.

Please note that the PSC is not currently eligible for Child Care Fund reimbursement.

¹² [The John Praed Foundation: The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths \(CANS\)](#)

¹³ [National Youth Screening & Assessment Partners: Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument – Second Version \(MAYSI-2\)](#)

¹⁴ [Massachusetts General Hospital: Pediatric Symptom Checklist \(PSC\)](#)

APPENDIX B

Written Policy and Procedures for Use of Screening and Assessment Tools Template

Guidelines for Development of Plans for Use of Screening and Assessment Tools

Effective October 1, 2024, Michigan courts are required to conduct and consider screenings and risk and needs assessments on justice-involved youth at various decision-making points to help inform decisions. The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) is required to create, and courts are required to comply with guidelines on the use of the screening tools and risk and needs assessments. Per the SCAO created guidelines, circuit courts are required to submit a plan for the use of the various tools. The following guidelines provide information that circuit courts must outline when submitting plans.

1. **Tool Selection**

Plans must identify the tool selected for use for each statutory requirement:

- Risk Screening Tool: [MCL 712A.2f \(Consent Calendar\)](#); [MCL 722.823 \(Diversion\)](#); [MCL 722.826 \(Diversion\)](#); and [MCL 400.117a \(Child Care Fund Reimbursement\)](#)
- Mental Health Screening Tool: [MCL 712A.2f \(Consent Calendar\)](#); [MCL 722.823 \(Diversion\)](#); and [MCL 722.826 \(Diversion\)](#)
- Detention Screening Tool: [MCL 712A.15\(3\)](#)
- Risk and Needs Assessments: [MCL 712A.18\(9\)](#)

2. **Training Requirements for Selected Tools**

Plans must include the training requirements for the selected tools and the process for the staff to complete the training prior to administering any of the selected tools.

3. **Responsibility for Administering the Selected Tools**

Plans must identify the staff responsible for administering each of the selected tools.

4. **Decision-Making Points for Selected Tools**

Plans must identify when (at what decision-making points of case) the selected tools will be conducted. [[MCL 712A.2f](#), [MCL 722.823](#), [MCL 722.826](#), [MCL 712A.15\(3\)](#), [MCL 712A.18\(9\)](#), and [MCL 400.117a\(13\)](#)]

5. **Screening and Assessment Tool Results**

Plans must detail the decision-making process upon receiving the results. This must include the following:

- Who will have access to the screening and assessment results, what information is shared, and what is the method to provide access
- How the results of the screening and assessment tools will be used to identify the appropriate level of service for a youth, while also taking into consideration other factors such as community safety and rehabilitation of the youth.
 - The plan must indicate the general paths for different screening scores including, but not limited to, the following examples:
 - Youth with low-risk scores, the court may offer or refer the youth to diversion or community services

- Youth with medium-risk scores may be offered a consent calendar plan, etc.
- Youth with high-risk scores should be offered more intensive services and supervision
- Describe the override process to include who has the authority to override, what additional factors are to be considered when making the determination, what documentation will occur when overriding a result, and any language from the vendor of the tool(s) regarding the number of overrides that are acceptable to maintain the validity of the tool.

6. Maintaining Selected Tools and Results

The plan must indicate where the selected tools and the results of these tools will be maintained.

7. Exclusions

The plan must include language regarding how the selected tools, and information gathered during the administration of the tools, are not allowed to be used and/or considered in certain proceedings. [[MCL 712A.2f](#), [MCL 712A.15\(3\)](#), [MCL 712A.18\(15\)](#), [MCL 722.829\(3\)](#)]

[LOCAL COURT LETTERHEAD]

Policy and Procedure Plan [insert year]
Insert when applicable Rescinds Policy and Procedure Plan [year]

Use of Screening and Assessment Tools

Pursuant to MCL 712A.2f, MCL 712A.15(3), MCL 712A.18(9), MCL 722.823, MCL 722.826, circuit court - family divisions are required to use validated risk screening and mental health screening tools, a detention screening tool, and a validated risk and needs assessment tool, as approved by the State Court Administrative Office, at various decision-making points throughout a juvenile case. Pursuant to the SCAO Juvenile Justice Screening and Assessment Tool Guidelines, courts must establish clear policies and procedures for the administration of screenings and assessments on justice-involved youth and submit those to the SCAO.

Tool Selection:

Risk Screening Tool (*choose only 1*):

- MJJAS/OYAS-Diversion (Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System)
- YASI – Pres-screen (Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument)
- YLS/CMI Short Form (Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory)

Mental Health Screening Tool (*may choose more than 1*):

- MAYSI-2 (Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument)
- CAFAS (Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale)
- CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths)
- PSC (Pediatric Symptom Checklist)

Risk and Needs Assessment (*choose only 1*):

- MJJAS/OYAS (Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System)
- YASI (Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument)
- YLS/CMI (Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory)

Detention Screening Tool:

- MJJAS/OYAS-Detention Screening Tool (Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System)

Training Process and Requirements:

Risk Screening Tool:

- All designated individuals or agencies are trained in administering the selected tool

Please describe your court's plan for ensuring designated individuals or agencies who are not currently trained in administering the selected tool complete training as required: Click or tap here to enter text.

Mental Health Screening Tool: Click or tap here to enter text.

All designated individuals or agencies are trained in administering the selected tool

Please describe your court's plan for ensuring designated individuals or agencies who are not currently trained in administering the selected tool complete training as required:

Risk and Needs Assessment Tool: Click or tap here to enter text.

All designated individuals or agencies are trained in administering the selected tool

Please describe your court's plan for ensuring designated individuals or agencies who are not currently trained in administering the selected tool complete training as required: Click or tap here to enter text.

Detention Screening Tool: Click or tap here to enter text.

All designated individuals or agencies are trained in administering the selected tool

Please describe your court's plan for ensuring designated individuals or agencies who are not currently trained in administering the selected tool complete training as required:

Staff Responsible for Administration and Decision-Making Points:

Risk Screening Tool:

Responsible staff position(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

Completion: Risk screening tools will be administered on youth prior to any decision to divert pursuant to MCL 722.823(4) and prior to any decision to place a youth on a consent calendar pursuant to MCL 712A.2f(2)(b).

Completed at other decision-making points (*please specify*): Click or tap here to enter text.

Mental Health Screening Tool:

Responsible staff position(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

Completion: Mental health screening tools will be administered on youth prior to any decision to divert pursuant to MCL 722.823(4) and any decision to place a youth on a consent calendar pursuant to MCL 712A.2f(2)(b).

Completed at other decision-making points (*please specify*): Click or tap here to enter text.

Risk and Needs Assessment Tool:

Responsible staff position(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

Completion: Risk and needs assessment tools will be administered on a youth prior to disposition pursuant to MCL 712A.18(9) and reassessment completed pursuant to MCL 712A.18(11).

Completed at other decision-making points (*please specify*): Click or tap here to enter text.

Detention Screening Tool:

Responsible staff position(s): Click or tap here to enter text.

Completion: Detention screening tools will be administered prior to any decision to detain a youth in secure detention pursuant to MCL 712.15(3).

Completed at other decision-making points (*please specify*): Click or tap here to enter text.

Access to Screening Tool Results:

Risk Screening Tool:

For Diversion:

The following individuals have access to the results from the risk screening tool (*please note that only the tool results may be shared*):

- Law enforcement official
- Court intake worker

For Consent Calendar:

- Juvenile
- Juvenile's parent/guardian/legal custodian
- Guardian ad Litem
- Juvenile's attorney
- MDHHS (*if related to an investigation of neglect and abuse*)
- Law enforcement personnel
- Prosecutor
- Other courts

How the results of risk and mental health screening will be used to identify appropriate level of service:

- Youth with low-risk scores may be diverted or given community service
- Youth with moderate-risk scores may be offered a consent calendar
- Youth with high-risk scores may be offered more intensive services and supervision
- Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

Please describe the court's process for overriding the risk level: Click or tap here to enter text.

Where the tool/results of the screening tools will be maintained: Click or tap here to enter text.

Exclusions: Pursuant to MCL 722.829(3) and MCL 712A.2f(7)(c), any information obtained through the administration of a risk screening tool is not admissible in any adjudicatory hearing, subject to subpoena, or use in any other court proceeding.

Other court specific exclusionary policies and procedures: Click or tap here to enter text.

Mental Health Screening Tool:

For Diversion:

The following individuals have access to the results from the mental health screening tool (please note that only the tool results may be shared):

- Law enforcement official
- Court intake worker

For Consent Calendar:

- Juvenile
- Juvenile’s parent/guardian/legal custodian
- Guardian ad Litem
- Juvenile’s attorney
- MDHHS (if related to an investigation of neglect and abuse)
- Law enforcement personnel
- Prosecutor
- Other courts

How results will be used to identify appropriate level of service:

- Youth with low-risk scores may be diverted or given community service
- Youth with moderate-risk scores may be offered a consent calendar
- Youth with high-risk scores may be offered more intensive services and supervision
- Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

Please describe the court’s process for overriding the risk level: Click or tap here to enter text.

Where the tool/results will be maintained: Click or tap here to enter text.

Exclusions: Pursuant to MCL 722.829(3) and MCL 712A.2f(7)(c), any information obtained through the administration of a mental health screening tool is not admissible in any adjudicatory hearing, subject to subpoena, or use in any other court proceeding.

Other court specific exclusionary policies and procedures: Click or tap here to enter text.

Risk and Needs Assessment Tool:

The following individuals have access to the results from the risk and needs assessment (please note that only the tool results may be shared):

- Juvenile
- Juvenile’s Attorney
- Prosecutor
- Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

How results will be used to identify appropriate level of service:

- Youth with low-risk scores may be diverted or given community service

- Youth with moderate-risk scores may be offered a consent calendar
- Youth with high-risk scores may be offered more intensive services and supervision
- Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

Please describe the court’s process for overriding the risk level: Click or tap here to enter text.

Where the tool/results will be maintained: Click or tap here to enter text.

Exclusions: Pursuant to MCL 712A.18(15), any information obtained through the administration of a risk and needs assessment tool is not admissible in any adjudicatory hearing, subject to subpoena, or use in any other court proceeding.

- Other court specific exclusionary policies and procedures: Click or tap here to enter text.

Detention Screening Tool:

The following individuals have access to the results from the detention screening tool (*please note that only the tool results may be shared*):

- Juvenile
- Juvenile’s Attorney
- Prosecutor
- Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional factors under MCR 3.935 considered along with tool:

- Juvenile’s family ties and relationships
- Juvenile’s prior delinquency record
- Juvenile’s record of appearance/nonappearance at court proceedings
- Violent nature of the alleged offense
- Juvenile’s prior history of committing acts resulting in bodily injury to others
- Court’s ability to supervise the juvenile if placed with a parent or relative
- Results of a detention screening tool
- Any other factor indicating the juvenile’s ties to the community, risk of nonappearance, and the danger to the juvenile or the public if the juvenile is released, including: Click or tap here to enter text.

How results will be used to identify appropriate level of service: Click or tap here to enter text.

- Youth with low-risk scores may be released
- Youth with moderate-risk scores may be offered an alternative to detention placement
- Youth with high-risk scores may be detained
- Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

Please describe the court’s process for overriding the risk level: Click or tap here to enter text.

Where the tool/results will be maintained: Click or tap here to enter text.

Exclusions: Pursuant to MCL 712A.15(4), any information obtained through the administration of a detention screening tool is not admissible in any adjudicatory hearing, subject to subpoena, or use in any other court proceeding.

Other court specific exclusionary policies and procedures: Click or tap here to enter text.

Other (provide any other relevant information regarding the policies and procedures for screening and assessment tools): Click or tap here to enter text.

Effective Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

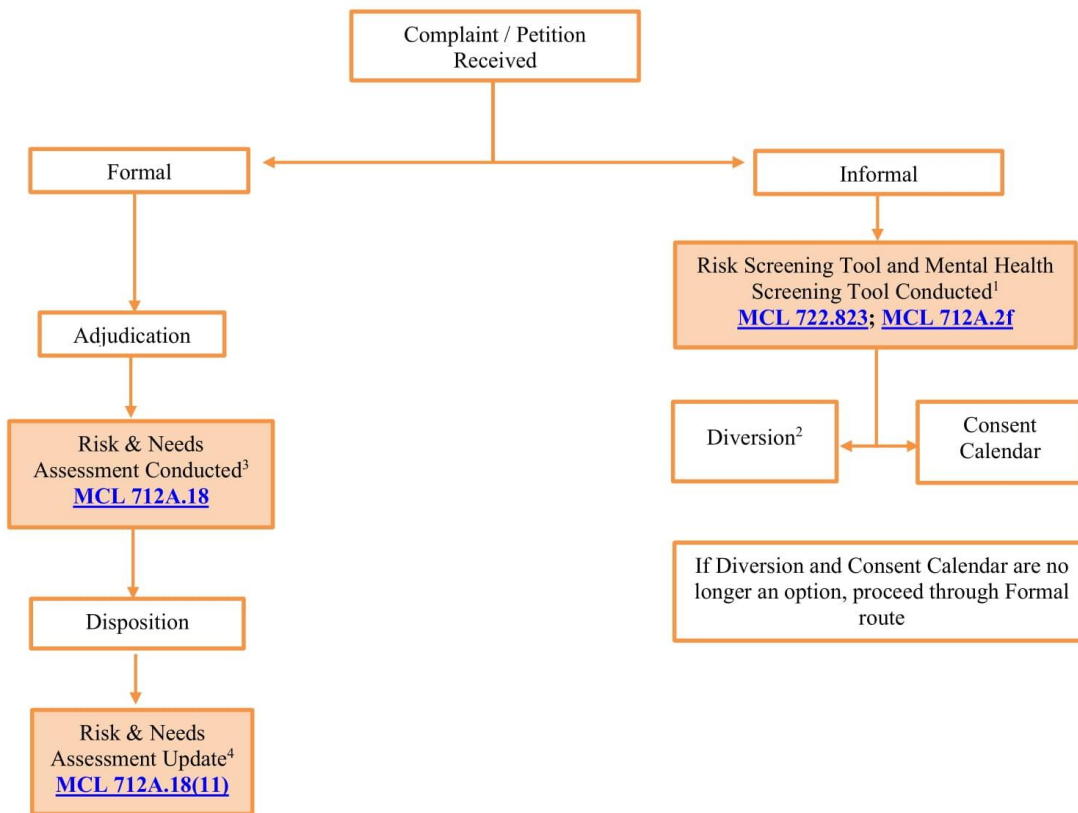
Date: _____ Chief Judge Signature: _____

APPENDIX C

Screening and Assessment Tools Flow Chart

State Court Administrative Office
Juvenile Court Screening & Assessment Tools
Sample Flowchart

Please note that this document is a sample and not mandatory for use. Individual court policies and procedures may vary.



¹ Risk screening tool and mental health screening tool are only required for youth eligible for consideration for a court’s diversion program or consent calendar
² Juvenile must meet eligibility requirements in MCL 722.823(4) to be considered for diversion, and court has a diversion program. Please follow individual court policy regarding diversion program and consent calendar.
³ Risk and needs assessment is required for all youth prior to disposition
⁴ Individual tools may require more frequent updates that align with the fidelity of the tool, however, MCL 712A.18(11) requires updates to occur at the following points during a case:

- Every 6 months
- Juvenile experiences major life event
- Major change in juvenile’s proceedings



APPENDIX D

Detention Screening Tool Flow Chart

State Court Administrative Office
Juvenile Court Detention Screening Tool
Sample Flowchart

