YOUTH NAME: _______________________________ DATE: ______________ 
INTERVIEWER NAME: ________________________ JOB TITLE: ______________

- Prior to conducting the initial interview with the youth, review all available documentation. 
- These are sample statements. You do not need to read all statements verbatim.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

1. Introduce yourself and ask youth how s/he is doing. Explain that the purpose is to better understand the youth so that their time on supervision can be beneficial to him/her and help him/her reduce his/her risk of getting in trouble again.

2. “Because this kind of assessment is so important we will rely upon multiple sources of information (e.g., previous records, contacts with others such as teachers and employers, etc.).”

3. “If you’d like, the next time we meet, I can go over your results and give you some feedback about what it says.”

4. “I will be taking a few notes now and then, so I can remember things better. If something isn’t entirely clear at any point, please stop me and ask questions.”

5. “Do you have any questions before we get started?”

REMINDERS

Introduce yourself 
Ask youth how they are doing and REFLECT 

Remember to explain the assessment in general and in positive terms and in a way that the youth understands.
**Domain 1: Record of Referrals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEAD-IN/PROBES</th>
<th>REMINDERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why don’t we start by talking about your experience with the justice system, since that’s why you are here at ____________________? <em>(insert name of the location)</em></td>
<td>Be sure to use <strong>OARS</strong>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tell me about the most recent arrest.</strong></td>
<td>O=Open Ended Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tell me more about what happened.</strong></td>
<td>A=Affirmations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tell me about the people you were with.</strong></td>
<td>R=Reflections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What time was it?</strong></td>
<td>S=Summarizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What were you thinking at the time?</strong></td>
<td><em>REFLECT</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What were you feeling?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How did your parent(s) respond?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What happened as a result of the arrest?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How did it affect you?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How did it affect your family/friends?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who else was affected and how did it affect them?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What do you think about it now?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How do you feel about what happened?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Would you do anything different if the same situation occurred again?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessing family relationships**

**Consequential thinking**

**Assessing attitudes/ empathy**

**Assessing skills-- consequential thinking, problem solving**
## Domain 1: Out of State or Adult Charges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THIS SECTION IS USED FOR YOUTH WHO HAVE LIVED IN ANOTHER STATE AND/OR MAY HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH OFFENSES NOT CAPTURED IN JJIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did you ever get in trouble when you lived in ______ (state)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell me more about what happened?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WE NEED TO CAPTURE INFORMATION ON:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CASES DISPOSED OR SENTENCED TO diversion, adjudication withheld, adjudication, deferred prosecution or referral to adult court (regardless of whether successfully completed).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• PENDING CHARGES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Once a charge is dropped or no longer meets the above criteria, it should be deleted.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Domain 3: School

**PROBING QUESTIONS AND NOTES**

Now, I’d like to talk to you about your experiences with school.

So, tell me about your current school.

Do you like it more or less than you did in the past?

Tell me about any problems you’ve had with school teachers or other students. Have you been suspended or expelled from school this term? What happened?

What kinds of grades do you get in school? Are you failing any classes?

Do you think that school is important?

Do you feel encouraged to do well in school by your teachers and coaches?

Do you feel comfortable talking to any teachers, staff, or coaches at your school? Why do you like him or her?

Are you in any school clubs or sports? Do you have any interest being in school activities?

---

**ITEM CHECKLIST**

*REFLECT*

1. Current Enrollment

2. Behavior/Conduct

3. Attendance

4. GPA/Grades

5. Value of education

6. School is encouraging

7. Staff close to

8. School activities

9. Likelihood to graduate
Domain 4: Use of Free Time

**PROBING QUESTIONS AND NOTES**

What kinds of things do you like doing with your free time?

Do you participate in any organized activities such as, clubs, groups, churches, or activities? Tell me about those.

What else do you like to do? Why do you like to do that?

Who do you like to do that with?

What changes have noticed in how you spend your free time lately?

Tell me what you find fun to do and what is not fun.

**ITEM CHECKLIST**

*REFLECT use OARS

1. Current activities

   ______________________________________

2. Types of activities

   ________________

3. Unstructured hobbies

   ______________________________________

**Use ELABORATION TECHNIQUES, e.g. “Tell me more about that,” “What else,” “Give me an example of that,” and follow up with REFLECTIONS**
## Domain 5: Employment

### PROBING QUESTIONS AND NOTES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever had a job? We say a job is something where you have responsibilities and consequences for not fulfilling those responsibilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you think makes a good employee?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What kind of jobs have you had a job? Tell me more about it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you currently have a job? Tell me more about it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do/did you get along with the people you work with?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s the best part of having a job? What’s the worst part?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ITEM CHECKLIST

*REFLECT use OARS

1. Employment history

2. Understands what is required

3. Employment status

4. Positive relationship(s)
## Domain 6: Relationships

### PROBING QUESTIONS AND NOTES

I would like to get a better sense of people you spend time with. Can you describe your friends? Who do you spend most of your free time with and how do you spend it?

Are you or any of your friends associated or in a gang?

What do you like about your friends?

Are these old friends or new friends?

Do you hang out with your old friends?

What do your parents think about your friends?

What adults have really been there for you or appeared to be supportive of you in the past? (Not related to school, employment, or family members)

What did you enjoy about spending time with them?

Do you have a boyfriend/ girlfriend?

Tell me about the things you and your friends do.

Who comes up with the plans?

### ITEM CHECKLIST

**REFLECT**

1. History of friends

2. Current friends

3. Current positive adults

4. Current pro-social community ties

5. Currently in a “romantic” relationship

6. Admires/ imitates anti-social peers

7. Resistance to anti-social peers

*Use ELABORATION TECHNIQUES, e.g. “Tell me more about that,” “What else,” “Give me an example of that,” and follow up with REFLECTIONS*
I would like to get a better sense of what kind of friendships you have and the people you spend time with. I’m going to try and sketch a map of your main friends and companions to try and identify who all is in your network. If we put you in the very center and expand out from there by including only people you hang out with almost every day in the next circle, who would we put in the first circle - you can just tell me initials or nicknames if you like.
Domain 7: Family

**PROBING QUESTIONS AND NOTES**

Let’s talk about your family. Tell me about them.

Where are the places you have lived?

Tell me about your parents.

Siblings?

Have your parents ever had problems with alcohol or drugs? Or health issues?

Have your siblings ever had problems with alcohol or drugs? Or health issues?

What sorts of things does your family do together? Who do you do these things with?

Have you ever run away from home or been kicked out?

Has anyone in your family ever been in trouble with the law?

Do you feel that your family supports you in the way you need them? Do they help you to be better?

Who in your family can you talk to easily or feel close to?

How well do you get along with your parents and your siblings? What about your parents with each other?

Tell me about the rules you have at home.

Do you obey your parent’s rules? Do you get disciplined?

**ITEM CHECKLIST**

*REFLECT*

1. Run away __________________________

2. Lost a parent ______________

3. Historical family jail/ imprisonment ______________________

4. Current family jail/ imprisonment ______________________

5. Problem history of parents ________________________________

6. Problem history of siblings ________________________________

7. Support ________________________________

8. Feels close to __________________________

9. Conflict ________________________________

10. Authority ________________________________

11. DCF ________________________________

12. Support for family ________________________________

13. Supervision ________________________________

14. Consistent punishment ________________________________

15. Consistent rewards ________________________________

16. Parental characterization of youth ________________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How do your parents feel about you getting into trouble with the law?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you think that your parent’s punishments are fair for your bad behavior?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give me an example.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do your parents know your friends?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell me what you do after school when you get home.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever been placed with a caretaker or foster parent outside of your home?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Domain 8: Alcohol and Drugs

## PROBING QUESTIONS AND NOTES

Tell me about your experience with alcohol? When did you first drink or get a little tipsy what happened after that?

What about any drug use?

***Only probe further for youth who have used***

Can you explain how drugs or alcohol have interfered with any aspect of your life (education, family, health problems, criminal behavior)?

How is your current use of drugs and alcohol any different now than prior to six months ago?

Have you ever been drinking or using when you got in trouble?

Do your parents or friends know about your use? What do they think?

Have you ever had to participate in a class or treatment about drug or alcohol use?

Are you currently in a drug or alcohol treatment program? How is it going?

Have you ever had an assessment or been diagnosed with anything related to drugs or alcohol?

## ITEM CHECKLIST

### *REFLECT*

1. Alcohol use

2. Drug use

3. History of diagnosis

4. Current treatment
### Domain 9: Trauma and Mental Health

**PROBING QUESTIONS AND NOTES**

Tell me about anything bad or terrifying that has happened to you or that you’ve seen happen to someone else.

Has anyone hurt you or touched you in a way that made you uncomfortable? Tell me about that.

Does it ever cause you to have bad dreams or prolonged feelings about that event(s)?

Have you always been taken care of and given enough to eat? Have you ever felt neglected?

What’s it like when you have trouble controlling your feelings? Are you in a bad mood or angry a lot?

Do you get sad a lot, and does the sadness keep you from spending time with friends or other things that you enjoy?

Have you ever seen a therapist or been diagnosed with any mental health issues?

Have you ever thought about hurting yourself? Have you thought of suicide?

Do you know someone who has committed suicide? When and how?

---

**ITEM CHECKLIST**

*REFLECT*

1. Abuse ________________________________
2. Witnessing violence __________________
3. Sex Abuse __________________________
4. Neglect ______________________________
5. Anger ________________________________
6. Depression/anxiety ____________________
7. Mental health ________________________
8. Suicidal ideation _____________________
Domain 10: Attitudes/ Behaviors

PROBING QUESTIONS AND NOTES

Why do you think there are rules and laws, and are they fair?

How do you feel when a teacher or other adult tells you to do something?

What happens if you have a disagreement with an adult? Does it ever result in a verbal altercation or physical violence? If so, tell me how that makes you feel?

Who is responsible for you being here with me today?

Would you do anything differently?

Tell me how you would describe a victim.

What kinds of effects did the offense have on a victim?

When you think about a victim, what do you think, and how do you feel?

Do you believe you can meet the conditions of court supervision? What might be hard about completing your supervision?

ITEM CHECKLIST

*REFLECT

1. Attitude toward law ______________________

2. Accepts responsibility __________________

3. Optimism _____________________________

4. Impulsivity ___________________________

5. Empathy _____________________________

6. Respect for property ___________________

7. Respect for authority ___________________

8. Youth’s belief in success ________________

Use ELABORATION TECHNIQUES, e.g. “Tell me more about that,” “What else,” “Give me an example of that,” and follow up with REFLECTIONS.
## Domain 11: Aggression

### PROBING QUESTIONS AND NOTES

When do you believe it is appropriate to argue with someone?

When is physical aggression a good idea?

What is the worst violence you have seen or been involved in?

What happens when you are frustrated?

What’s the worst thing you’ve done to anybody? To an animal?

### ITEM CHECKLIST

*REFLECT*

1. Physical aggression ________________
2. Verbal aggression ________________
3. Tolerance for frustration ________________
4. Aggressive behavior ________________
5. Sexually aggression ________________
Domain 12: Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBING QUESTIONS AND NOTES</th>
<th>ITEM CHECKLIST * REFLECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I would like to talk to you about the kinds of skills we acquire throughout our life in order to become a more disciplined person; sometimes we refer to these as self control skills.</td>
<td>1. Consequential thinking _________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell me about some consequences you have seen in your life.</td>
<td>2. Goal setting __________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are some goals that you have set and achieved? Tell me more about that.</td>
<td>3. Problem-solving _________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are some early signs that you are beginning to have a problem with some person, place, or thing?</td>
<td>4. Dealing with others ____________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When you experience strong emotions like anger, fear or depression - what kinds of things do you do to manage and work through these feelings?</td>
<td>5. Dealing with difficult situations __________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Magic Question: Was there ever a time in your life when everything was all right, just about perfect? When was that and how is it different now?</td>
<td>6. Dealing with feelings/ emotions __________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where do you see yourself in five years?</td>
<td>7. Monitoring of triggers __________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you had three wishes, what would you wish for?</td>
<td>8. Control of impulsive behavior ____________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Control of aggression __________________

CLOSE-OUT OF THE INTERVIEW: Solicit questions, thank the interviewee for all their truthfulness and willingness. Ideally, while you review your notes, you can have the youth review their face sheet or other material that would be of interest to them. Then you can discuss any missing or unclear information with them.