



YLS & CASE PLAN BENCH CARD

The YLS/CMI (Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory) examines eight criminogenic risk factors, which are static and dynamic in nature, across the following domains:

1. **Prior and Current Offenses/Dispositions (static risk factor):** Includes dispositions resulting in informal adjustment; consent decree; and adjudications of delinquency in a “pattern of offending over time” of the youth. Also includes the youth’s failure to appear, probation violations, prior placements and escapes.
2. **Family Circumstances/Parenting (dynamic risk factor):** Includes the factors of inadequate supervision; difficulty in controlling behavior; inappropriate discipline; inconsistent parenting; poor relations between father and the youth and poor relations between the mother and the youth.
3. **Education/Employment (dynamic risk factor):** Includes instances of disruptive classroom behavior; disruptive school yard behavior; low achievement; problems with peers; problems with teachers; truancy; and unemployed, not seeking employment.
4. **Peer Relations (dynamic risk factor):** Includes the youth having some delinquent acquaintances; some delinquent friends; no/few positive acquaintances; and no/few positive friends.
5. **Substance Abuse (dynamic risk factor):** Includes the youth’s occasional drug use; chronic drug use; chronic alcohol use; substance abuse interferes with life; and substance use linked to the offense.
6. **Leisure/Recreation (dynamic risk factor):** Includes the youth’s limited organized activities; ability to make better use of time; no personal interests.
7. **Personality/Behavior (dynamic risk factor):** Includes whether the youth has an inflated self-esteem; is physically aggressive; exhibits tantrums; short attention span; poor frustration tolerance; inadequate guilt feelings; and is verbally aggressive.
8. **Attitudes/Orientation (dynamic risk factor):** Includes whether the youth has antisocial/pro-criminal attitudes supportive of a criminal or anti-conventional life style (does not believe social rules apply to him/her); is not seeking help; is actively rejecting help; defies authority; and is callous, with little concern for others.

Static risk factors are those that have occurred in the past and cannot be changed—Prior and Current Offenses/Dispositions.

Dynamic risk factors are those traits or attributes linked to recidivism that can be changed during the supervision process to reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

“Top Four, Plus One”, Criminogenic Risk/Need Factors

Research has shown there are four dynamic criminogenic risk factors that have the greatest impact upon potentially reducing recidivism if addressed by the appropriate intervention or treatment.

1. Attitudes/Orientation (Thinking/Beliefs)
2. Personality/Behavior
3. Peer Relations
4. Family Circumstances

In addition to these four dynamic risk factors, *Prior and Current Offenses/Dispositions* - a static risk factor, is an important indicator of recidivism risk and represents the “Plus One” noted above.



While the other dynamic risk factors (Education/Employment, Substance Abuse, and Leisure/Recreation) are important and certainly should not be ignored, addressing the “Top Four” with appropriate interventions will have a more significant impact on reducing recidivism.

The YLS yields an overall score that indicates a juvenile’s risk to recidivate:

- Low (0-8)
- Moderate (9-22)
- High (23-34)
- Very High (35-42)

Case Plan

The Case Plan is the blueprint for the juvenile while under the Court’s supervision and is recommended for all juveniles under a consent decree, on probation, or in placement. It identifies strategies and interventions that address the criminogenic risk factors identified by the YLS and incorporates additional Balanced and Restorative Justice goals and activities for the juvenile to address while under supervision. It should be updated and activities are scored and modified based on the juvenile’s progress or lack thereof.

The Case Plan becomes more involved as a juvenile penetrates deeper into the system, building on strengths and addressing needs to reduce the likelihood of recidivism and move the juvenile toward productive citizenship. Initial activities should be limited to the top three criminogenic needs.

The Case Plan outlines the following:

- Monitoring the reporting requirements related to community protection
- Specific Court directives and requirements
- Specific programming and interventions that address the top criminogenic risk/need factors identified by the YLS (e.g. ART or Drug and Alcohol Treatment)
- Victim-related responsibilities such as restitution and attendance at the Victim Awareness Curriculum
- Community Service obligations
- Education/career and technical plan/workforce development plans

The Case Plan also considers the responsivity factors that must be considered when developing Case Plan activities. The following responsivity factors are non-criminogenic but should be considered in the development of the Case Plan to enhance a juvenile’s ability to succeed:

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Self esteem | • Motivation |
| • Personal distress | • Developmental Age |
| • Intelligence | • Learning disabilities |
| • Health Issues | • Learning style |
| • Mental health | • Culture |

The probation officer should develop dispositional and Case Plan recommendations to the Court based on the results of the YLS, as well as Balanced and Restorative Justice principles, and should highlight the juvenile’s progress with the Case Plan when appearing before the Court in dispositional review proceedings.

(This bench card was modeled after the YLS & Case Plan Bench Card developed by the Allegheny County Juvenile Court) – December 2013