

Appendix F

PARENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT'S DECISION FLOW CHART

The following introductory points are offered to aid the evaluator in understanding and using the Parental Risk Assessment and the Decision Flow Chart.

1. Holistic approach

A holistic approach to evaluating risk should be used in the service of assessing on offender's level of risk to one's own child(ren). Children's well-being requires that any form of detectable risk be considered material in the PRA, not limited to risk for sexual re-offense against a child.

2. Aspects of low risk

- A) Low risk reflects an evaluator's determination that an offender does not present a consistent physical or psychological threat to his own child(ren), and that the offender presents a consistent capacity and inclination to provide healthy parental nurturance to his/her own child(ren), despite having been convicted of a sex offense.
- B) Low risk, for the purposes of the PRA, means that the sex offender is assessed as having a discrete, versus a pervasive, problem regarding sexual acting out, and that such problem does not include the likelihood of sexually offending one's own child(ren).
- C) Low risk means that a very low level of monitoring and external control of the offender, represents the best supervision and management decision for the well-being of the offender's child(ren).

3. Method of assessment

Completion of the Parental Risk Assessment and Decision Flow Chart is accomplished through testing, observation, file review and contact with collateral information sources.

The evaluator is required to search for indicators of risk, and/or any information that would preclude a determination that an offender presents a low risk for harm to his/her own child(ren).

An Evaluator may conclude that an offender presents a low level of risk of harming his/her own child(ren) only upon the absence of finding relevant indicators of risk.

4. Determining not low risk – then, determining medium or high risk.

The decision flow chart guides the evaluator to make discriminating decisions between the three categories of risk (i.e., high, medium and low). It should be noted that the first decision to be made throughout the flow chart is the whether or not the sex offender is "low risk."

If an offender presents with sufficient risk-predictive features to warrant a determination of "not low risk," the determination of medium or high risk status is completed secondarily.

5. Management team members should be able to explain all positions taken by the management team.

Because teams make decisions which substantially impact the lives of offenders, their families and victims, it is crucial that team members understand the rationale for all decisions and are able to support and articulate that rationale based on the identified risk factors and characteristics in a given case. Individual team members who are unable to articulate the rationale for decisions should not depend on a simplistic reliance on rules to explain themselves but should consult with supervisors and other team members rather than offering incomplete or inadequate explanations to offenders, family members or victims.

6. PRA instrument and tool selection

The instruments and tools selected for the PRA are chosen based upon general utility, research and best practices. The Decision Flow Chart is designed to enhance evaluator consistency, reliability and accuracy when determining the level of risk to the sex offender's own child(ren).

7. The 3-Tier approach in the Decision Flow Chart

A three-tiered approach was incorporated into the Decision Flow Chart because some issues offer greater or more obvious certainty regarding risk, and will function in a stand-alone fashion. Items in Tier I are sufficient, in and of themselves, to determine that an offender is “not low risk” (i.e., that a very low level of monitoring and external control does *not* represent the best supervision and management decision for a sex offender, specifically regarding his/her own child(ren)). Less obvious or less certain (though no less important) issues of concern are required in combination to determine that an offender is “not low risk,” with less certain information required in greater volume and variety to make such a determination. A determination of “high risk” may be made when there is a substantial volume of risk-predictive information.

When scoring the PRA, the evaluator must refer to detailed information from the Parental Risk Assessment as described in Standard 5.730. The Decision Flow Chart should not be used alone.

8. Use of the PRA and Decision Flow Chart in the context of accusations and/or admissions of sexual contact with the child(ren)

The PRA and Decision Flow Chart are not intended to be used with offenders who have been accused of sexually offending the child or children with whom the offender desires contact. The PRA and Decision Flow Chart are not intended for investigative purposes. Accusations of sexual contact with a child should be reported to the appropriate authorities for investigation. Any admission of sexual contact with any of the offender's own child(ren) must result in a determination of “high risk,” with regard to all of his/her children.

PARENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT – DECISION FLOW CHART

Instruction:
The evaluator must refer to information from the Parental Risk Assessment as described in 5.730

- Tier I**
- Sexual arousal/interest to prepubescent children (self report or test data, pretreatment or baseline)
 - Sexual history with prepubescent children (self report or offense history)
 - Mental Health Sex Offense Evaluation indicates **High Risk** (written report)
 - History of 3 or more different types of statutorily defined unlawful sexual bx (self report, collateral information, and/or official records)

Advisory: The PRA & Decision Flow Chart should be completed only in the absence of any accusation or admission of sexual contact with the offender's own child. Any admission of sexual contact must result in a determination of "high risk".

More than one item from Tier I

High Risk

Only one Item from Tier I

- Tier II**
- Sexual compulsivity (causes distress in interpersonal or lifestyle functioning) other than behavior already identified in Tier I
 - Recent pattern of drug or alcohol abuse
 - History of DV behavior (official record, collateral info, self report)
 - Personality Disorder
 - Cognitive distortions re sexual behavior with children
 - Attachment deficits (Ambivalent or Anxious)
 - Empathy deficits towards children in abusive situations
 - Unresolved polygraph (re anyone under the age of 18)
 - Any statutorily defined unlawful sexual behavior with a person under the age of 18, not already reported in Tier I

Any item from Tier I and any 2 items from Tier II

Yes.

High Risk

No.
Less than 2 items from Tier II

Two or More items from Tier II

Any item from Tier I and 4 items from Tier II and Tier III

Yes.

High Risk

No.
Less than 4 items (3 or less) items from Tier III

Any 5 items from Tier II and Tier III

Yes.

High Risk

No.
Less than 2 items (one or none) from Tier III

- Tier III**
- Lack of parental skills and parental involvement with the child
 - General instability (living, relationships, employment, criminal history, antisocial lifestyle)
 - Psychological instability (Axis I or II)
 - Lack of adequate support system
 - Support system for offender
 - Support system for the child
 - History of 2 or more different types of statutorily defined unlawful sexual bx (self report, collateral information, and/or official records), if not indicated in Tier I

Three or more items from Tier II and Tier III

Moderate Risk

Moderate Risk

Less than 3 (total) from Tier II and Tier III

Low Risk

- Exclusionary Criteria (no contact permitted)**
- Pedophilia – exclusive type
 - Sexual Sadism
 - Sexually Violent Predator
 - Psychopathy/Mental Abnormality

High Risk

No contact until conditions of 5.742 are satisfied

Moderate Risk

Professionally supervised visits and telephone and mail contact may be established at the team's discretion while the offender is working to achieve 5.742 criteria

Low Risk

5.742 criteria shall be waived