

TN

Department of
Children's Services



FAMILY ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT TOOL (FAST 2.0)

*A family planning and outcome tool for understanding family circumstances
And assisting in planning for services and reunification*

Praed Foundation
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INTRODUCTION

The Family Advocacy and Support Tool (FAST) is the family version of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) family of planning and outcome management tools. The purpose of the FAST is to support effective interventions when the focus of those efforts is on entire families rather than single individuals. The most common use of the FAST is in efforts to address the needs of families who are at risk of child welfare involvement.

The FAST is a communimetric tool, like the CANS and the Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA) (Lyons, 2009). It is designed to maximize communication about the needs and strengths of families. The FAST includes ratings of the Family Together, each individual Caregiver, and each individual youth. Interventions in the family system can be directed at that system or to address the individual needs of family members or dyadic relationships within the family.

Unlike the CANS and ANSA, however, the FAST has only one action-level framework for its items.

- 0 – No evidence of a need, this may be a strength
- 1 – Watchful waiting, prevention
- 2 – Action
- 3 – Immediate or intensive action (dangerous or disabling)

Items identified as a '0' are often strengths that can be used in strength-based planning. Items rated a '1' should be monitored and preventive efforts might be indicated. Items rated a '2' or '3' are "actionable" and should be addressed in the intervention plan.

The original version of the FAST, called the Multi-level Family Assessment, was developed in collaboration with Margaret Nickels, Ph.D., at the Juvenile Protection Agency in Chicago, Illinois. Following its initial use in a family therapy program to prevent child abuse and neglect, this tool was further developed into the FAST in collaboration with representatives of Family Support Organizations in New Jersey. It has been further refined in various applications in Illinois, New York, and Tennessee. As such, a large number of individuals have contributed to the design, development and refinement of the FAST. It is an open domain tool, free for anyone to use. We recommend training and certification to ensure its proper and reliable use. For more information, please contact:

Richard A. Epstein, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
1500 21st Avenue South, VAV Suite 2200
Nashville, TN 37212
richard.a.epstein@vanderbilt.edu

John S. Lyons, Ph.D.

Senior Research Fellow
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
1313 East 60th Street
Chicago, IL 60654
jlyons@chapinhall.org

Praed Foundation

550 N. Kingsbury Street, #101
Chicago, IL 60654
praedfoundation@yahoo.com
www.praedfoundation.org

FAST – Form

The Family Together	Family					
1. Financial Resources						
2. Residential Stability						
3. Physical Condition of Home*						
4. Home Maintenance*						
5. Natural Supports						
6. Family Conflict*						
7. Resiliency						
8. Family Safety*						
Caregivers (Primary = Caregiver 1)	Caregiver 1	Caregiver 2	Caregiver 3	Caregiver 4		
9. Adjustment to Trauma Experiences						
10. Physical Health						
11. Developmental*						
12. Mental Health *						
13. Substance Use*						
14. Criminal Activity*						
15. Supervision*						
16. Discipline*						
17. Involvement in Caregiving Functions*						
18. Knowledge of Youth and Family Needs*						
Youth (Score from oldest to youngest)	Youth 1	Youth 2	Youth 3	Youth 4	Youth 5	Youth 6
19. Sexual Abuse Status*						
20. Physical Abuse Status*						
21. Emotional Abuse*						
22. Neglect*						
23. Traumatic Grief						
24. Witness to Family, School or Community Violence						
25. Relationship with Primary Caregiver						
26. Education						
27. Physical Health						
28. Developmental						
29. Mental Health						
30. Substance Use						
31. High Risk Behavior						

***Denotes Safety Item**

NOTE: All ratings are on a 4-point scale with the following action levels: '0' (no evidence that action is needed), '1' (history, watchful waiting, prevention), '2' (action needed), '3' (immediate or intensive action needed), or 'NA' (not applicable).

THE FAMILY TOGETHER

1. Financial Resources

This item refers to the income and other sources of money available to family members (particularly caregivers) that can be used to address family needs.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. Family has financial resources necessary to meet needs.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. Family has financial resources necessary to meet most needs, but the family has a history of financial hardship or there is reason to believe that mild difficulties might exist.
- 2 Action Needed. Family has moderate financial difficulties that limit their ability to meet significant family needs.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. Family is experiencing significant financial hardship or poverty.

2. Residential Stability

This item refers to the stability of the family's housing. This does not refer to the risk of placement outside of the family home for any member of the family.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. Family has stable housing for the foreseeable future.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. Family currently has stable housing; however, the family has a history of housing instability or there is reason to believe that there may be mild difficulties maintaining housing due to things such as difficulty paying rent or utilities or conflict with a landlord.
- 2 Action Needed. Family has had to move in the past six months or will have to move in the near future due to housing difficulties.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. Family has experienced homelessness in the past six months, expects to be homeless in the immediate future, and/or is currently homeless with no plan for meeting basic needs for protection from the elements.

3. Physical Condition of Home (SAFETY ITEM)

This item refers to the physical condition of the house or apartment in which the family is currently residing. Shelters would be rated "Not applicable".

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. No health or safety concerns on property.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. There is a history of health or safety concerns with the physical condition of the home or there is reason to believe that there may be mild health concerns on the property that pose no immediate threat and easily correctable.
- 2 Action Needed. Serious substantiated health or safety hazards, i.e. overcrowding, inoperative or unsafe water and utility hazards, vermin, or other health and sanitation concerns.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. Substantiated life threatening health or safety hazards, i.e. living in condemned and/or structurally unsound residence; exposed wiring, potential fire/safety hazards, or vermin infestation.
- NA Families that are currently homeless or living in temporary emergency shelters would be rated Not Applicable

4. Home Maintenance (SAFETY ITEM)

This item refers to housekeeping both in terms of cleanliness and organization and safety from dangerous materials and/or objects (e.g. child proofing). Families living in a supported housing arrangement (e.g. shelter) would be rated "Not applicable".

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. Home is clean, maintained well; poisons and medications are locked up/stored away properly and out of reach. Home is child proofed; kitchen and bathroom are functional; all utilities are operational; everyone has a bed and outlets are plugged. No concerns.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. Most precautions have been taken; no danger to the youth, poisons and medication are out of reach but not locked up; home is mostly child proof, utilities are operational; minor cleaning is required, some odor present.
- 2 Action Needed. Some precautions have been taken, but potential hazards are obvious, e.g. poisons and medication out of sight but within reach of youth, overloaded outlets, matches and knives accessible but out of sight. Gas, heating, electricity, or plumbing sometimes don't work because bills have not been paid or needed repairs have not been attended to by the family. Home is somewhat cluttered. House needs general cleaning, e.g. bathroom, bedrooms, kitchen, and basement. Beds are needed.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. Home is not safe. Poisons and medications are visible and accessible, no screens on second floor windows for toddlers, outlets not plugged, few precautions taken; utilities off, due to neglect of bills or needed repair. Lack of age appropriate safe sleeping space for youth. No refrigerator. Home is dirty, kitchen presents odor due to spoiled food.
- NA Families that are currently living in a supported housing arrangement such as a shelter would be rated Not Applicable.

5. Natural Supports

Natural supports refer to help that you do not have to pay for. This could include friends and families or a church or other organization that helps the family in times of need.

- 0 Strength / No Evidence that Action is Needed. Family has substantial natural supports to assist in addressing most family, caregiver or youth needs.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. Family has natural supports but some limitations exist whereby these supports are insufficient or inappropriate to address some family, caregiver or youth needs.
- 2 Action Needed. Family has limited natural supports.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. Family has no natural supports.

6. Family Conflict (SAFETY ITEM)

This item refers to how much fighting and arguing occurs between family members. Domestic violence refers to physical fighting in which family members might get hurt.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. Family has minimal conflict, gets along well and negotiates disagreements appropriately.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. Family generally gets along fairly well, but when conflicts arise resolution is difficult or there is a history of significant conflict or domestic violence.
- 2 Action Needed. Family is generally argumentative and significant conflict is a fairly constant theme in family communications.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. Family experiences domestic violence. There is threat or occurrence of physical, verbal or emotional altercations. If the family has a current restraining order against one member, then they would be rated here.

7. Resiliency

This rating should be based on the family's ability to identify and use internal strengths in managing their lives

- 0 Strength / No Evidence that Action is Needed. Family is able to both identify and use internal strengths to better themselves and successfully manage difficult challenges.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. Family is able to identify internal strengths and is able to partially utilize them.
- 2 Action is Needed. Family is able to identify internal strengths but is not able to utilize them effectively.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. Family is not able to identify internal personal strengths

8. Family Safety (SAFETY ITEM)

This item refers to the degree to which family members are safe from being injured in the home. This item describes whether individuals in the home present a danger to the youth. This item does not describe situations in which caregivers are unable to prevent a youth from hurting him or herself despite well-intentioned efforts.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. Family provides a safe home environment and the youth is not at risk from others.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. Family home environment is safe, but concerns exist about the safety of the youth due to family history or others in the neighborhood who present safety concerns.
- 2 Action is Needed. Family home environment presents some danger from one or more individuals with access to the household.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action is Needed. Family home environment presents a clear and immediate risk of harm to the youth from one or more individuals.

CAREGIVERS

9. Adjustment to Traumatic Experiences

This rating covers the reactions of individuals to a variety of traumatic experiences. For example, this dimension covers both adjustment disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder as they are described in the DSM-IV.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the caregiver has experienced trauma or there is evidence that the caregiver has adjusted well to his or her traumatic experiences.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The caregiver has mild adjustment problems and exhibits some signs of distress or has a history of having difficulty adjusting to traumatic experiences.
- 2 Action Needed. The caregiver has marked adjustment problems and is symptomatic in response to a traumatic event (e.g., anger, depression, and anxiety).
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The caregiver has post-traumatic stress difficulties. Symptoms may include intrusive thoughts, hyper-vigilance, constant anxiety, and other common symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

10. Physical Health

This item refers to chronic medical or physical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, heart issues, etc.

- 0 No Evidence Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the caregiver has medical/physical health problems. The caregiver is generally healthy.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The caregiver is in recovery from medical/physical problems or there is a history of physical health problems.
- 2 Action Needed. The caregiver has medical/physical problems that interfere with his/her capacity to parent.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action is Needed. The caregiver has medical/physical problems that make it impossible for him/her to parent at this time.

11. Developmental (SAFETY ITEM)

This item refers to developmental disabilities including autism and intellectual disabilities.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the caregiver has developmental needs.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The caregiver has developmental challenges, but they do not currently interfere with parenting or there is a history of those challenges interfering with parenting.
- 2 Action Needed. The caregiver has developmental challenges that interfere with his/her capacity to parent.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action is Needed. The caregiver has developmental challenges that make it impossible for him/her to parent at this time.

12. Mental Health (SAFETY ITEM)

This item refers to mental health needs only (not substance abuse or dependence). A formal mental health diagnosis is not required to rate this item.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the caregiver has mental health needs.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The caregiver is in recovery from mental health difficulties or there is a history of mental health problems.
- 2 Action Needed. The caregiver has mental health difficulties that interfere with his/her capacity to parent.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action is Needed. Caregiver has mental health difficulties that make it very difficult or impossible for them to parent at this time.

13. Substance Use (SAFETY ITEM)

This item includes problems with alcohol, illegal drugs and/or prescription drugs.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the caregiver has any alcohol or drug use problems.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The caregiver may have mild problems with work or home life that result from occasional alcohol or drug use or there is a history of substance use problems.
- 2 Action Needed. The caregiver has clear problems with alcohol or drug use that interferes with his/her life, there is a documented history of substance use problems, or the caregiver has a diagnosable substance-related disorder.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action is Needed. Caregiver has substance use problems that make it very difficult or impossible for them to parent at this time.

14. Criminal Activity (SAFETY ITEM)

This item refers to the caregiver's current and/or prior history of prior misdemeanor or felony charges and/or convictions.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the caregiver has ever engaged in criminal activity.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The caregiver has a history of criminal activity, but the youth has not been in contact with the caregiver for at least 1 year or there is evidence that the criminal involvement is entirely in the caregivers past and he/she is not actively involved in criminal activity.
- 2 Action is Needed. The caregiver has recently been involved in criminal activity and the youth has been in contact with the caregiver in the past year or the caregiver has a history of involvement in criminal activity and there is no evidence that they have stopped this involvement.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action is Needed. The caregiver is currently engaged in criminal activity, for example is presently involved in a criminal case that has not been adjudicated.

15. Supervision (SAFETY ITEM)

This item refers to the success with which the caregiver is able to monitor youth in his/her care. This item should be rated consistent with the developmental needs of the youth.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the caregiver has difficulties supervising the youth in his or her care. The caregiver demonstrates consistent ability to supervise youth in his or her care according to their developmental needs.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The caregiver demonstrates generally good ability to supervise youth in his or her care but some problems may occur occasionally or there is a history of inadequate supervision.
- 2 Action Needed. The caregiver has difficulty maintaining an appropriate level of supervision of youth in his or her care.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The caregiver has significant problems maintaining any supervision of youth in his or her care.

16. Discipline (SAFETY ITEM)

Discipline refers to the caregiver's ability to encourage positive behaviors by youth in his/her care through the use of a variety of different techniques including, but not limited to, praise, redirection, and punishment.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the caregiver has difficulty with discipline. The caregiver generally demonstrates an ability to discipline youth in his or her care in a consistent and benevolent manner. She/he usually is able to set age appropriate limits and to enforce them.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The caregiver is often able to set age appropriate limits and to enforce them. On occasion her/his interventions may be either too harsh or too lenient but at other times her/his expectations of youth in his or her care may be too high or too low, or there is a history of inappropriate discipline.
- 2 Action Needed. The caregiver demonstrates limited ability to discipline youth in his or her care in a consistent and benevolent manner. She/he rarely is able to set age appropriate limits and to enforce them. Her/his interventions may be erratic and overly harsh but not physically harmful. Her/his expectations of youth in his or her care are frequently unrealistic.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The caregiver disciplines youth in his or her care in an unpredictable fashion. There is either an absence of limit setting and disciplinary interventions or the limit setting and disciplinary interventions are rigid, extreme, or physically harmful.

17. Involvement in Caregiving Functions (SAFETY ITEM)

This item refers to the degree to which the caregiver is actively involved in being a parent/caregiver.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the caregiver is not involved with caregiving functions. The caregiver is actively and fully involved in daily family life.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The caregiver is generally involved in daily family life. He or she may occasionally be less involved for brief periods of time because he or she is distracted by internal stressors and/or other external events or responsibilities or there is a history of caregiver un-involvement.
- 2 Action Needed. The caregiver is involved in daily family life but only maintains minimal daily interactions for extended periods of time.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The caregiver is mostly uninvolved in daily family life. He or she may not interact with their children on a daily basis.

18. Knowledge of Child and Family Needs (SAFETY ITEM)

This item refers to the caregiver's ability to recognize the needs of the family and individual family members.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the caregiver has difficulty understanding the needs of the family and individual family members. The caregiver has strong understanding of family and youth needs.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The caregiver has understanding of family and youth needs, but may still require some help in learning about certain aspects of these needs or there is a history of caregiver lack of knowledge.
- 2 Action Needed. The caregiver requires assistance in understanding family and/or youth needs.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The caregiver requires substantial assistance in identifying and understanding family and youth needs.

YOUTH

19. Sexual Abuse Status (SAFETY ITEM)

This rating describes the youth's experience of sexual abuse.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that youth has experienced sexual abuse.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. There is a suspicion that the youth has experienced sexual abuse with some degree of evidence or the youth has experienced sexual abuse including, but not limited to, direct exposure to sexually explicit materials. Evidence for suspicion of sexual abuse could include evidence of sexually reactive behavior as well as exposure to a sexualized environment or Internet predation. Youth who have experienced secondary sexual abuse (e.g., witnessing sexual abuse, having a sibling sexually abused) also would be rated here, if the abuse is not current, did not occur recently, or involve the type of incident that would otherwise be rated at the '2' or '3' action level.
- 2 Action Needed. Youth has experienced one or more incidents of sexual abuse that are not recent incidents and it is unclear whether or not treatment was sought for the youth, that the alleged perpetrator does not live in the home or have legal or unrestrained access to the youth, or where the alleged perpetrator is of similar age and protective measures have been taken by the parent/caregiver.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. Youth has experienced severe, chronic sexual abuse with multiple episodes or lasting over an extended period of time, sexual abuse significant enough to cause physical injury and/or require medical attention, or a single incident where the alleged perpetrator resides in the home and has legal or unrestrained access to the youth.

20. Physical Abuse Status (SAFETY ITEM)

This rating describes the youth's experience of physical abuse.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the youth has experienced physical abuse.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. There is a suspicion that the youth has experienced physical abuse but no confirming evidence. Age appropriate spanking that does not leave a mark or bruise would be rated here. The threat of physical harm without actual harm inflicted would also be rated here.
- 2 Action Needed. Youth has experienced a level of physical abuse that may include one or more incidents of physical punishment (e.g. hitting, punching) when the parent/caretaker uses physical discipline or intentional harm that results in injuries, such as bruises or marks. Physical punishment that includes the use of items such as belts or paddles or that is done out of anger by the caretaker would be rated here.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. Youth has experienced severe and repeated physical abuse with the intent to do harm and/or that causes sufficient physical harm to necessitate medical attention. Unexplained injuries for non-accidental trauma such as hemorrhages, subdural hematoma and breaks, as well as disorders such as Munchausen by Proxy Syndrome qualify here.

21. Emotional Abuse (SAFETY ITEM)

Please rate the youth's lifetime experiences

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the youth has experienced emotional abuse.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The youth has experienced occasional emotional abuse. For instance, may experience some insults or is occasionally referred to in a derogatory manner by caregivers or may have been at times denied emotional support or attention.
- 2 Action Needed. The youth has experienced emotional abuse characterized by abuse over an extended period of time or a one-time extreme incident (e.g. a six year old being forced to wear diapers publicly by a parent frustrated with bedwetting). For instance, the youth may be consistently denied emotional attention from caregivers, insulted or humiliated on an ongoing basis, or intentionally isolated from others.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The youth has experienced severe and repeated emotional abuse over an extended period of time. For instance, the youth is completely ignored by caregivers, or threatened / terrorized by others.

22. Neglect (SAFETY ITEM)

Please rate the youth's lifetime experiences. This refers to failure to provide adequate supervision and expectations (such as extremely poor hygiene) and access to the basic necessities of life, including food, shelter, and clothing.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the youth has experienced neglect.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The youth has experienced neglect such as a caregiver's failure to provide adequate expectations or supervision. For instance, youth may have been left at home alone for a number of hours without adult supervision.
- 2 Action Needed. The youth has experienced neglect, including failure to provide adequate supervision (for instance, youth may have been left at home alone overnight) and occasional unintentional failure to provide adequate food, shelter, or clothing, with rapid corrective action.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The youth has experienced neglect, including multiple and prolonged absences by adults, without minimal supervision, and failure to provide basic necessities of life on a regular basis. The neglect places the youth in a situation that requires actions and/or decisions beyond the youth's maturity, physical ability and/or mental ability.

23. Traumatic Grief

This rating describes the level of traumatic grief the youth is experiencing due to the death or loss / separation from significant caregivers, siblings, or other significant figures.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the youth is experiencing traumatic grief reactions of separation from the loss of significant caregivers. The youth has not experienced a traumatic loss (e.g., the death of a loved one) or the youth has adjusted well to separation.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The youth has experienced mild traumatic grief due to death or loss / separation from a significant person in a manner that is expected and/or appropriate given the recent nature of the loss or separation.
- 2 Action Needed. The youth has experienced moderate traumatic grief or difficulties with separation in a manner that impairs functioning in some, but not all areas of daily functioning. This could include withdrawal or isolation from others or other problems with day-to-day functioning.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The youth has experienced significant traumatic grief reactions. The youth exhibits impaired functioning across most or all areas (e.g., interpersonal relationships, school) for a significant period of time following the loss or separation. Symptoms require immediate or intensive intervention.

24. Witness to Family, School or Community Violence

This rating describes the severity of exposure to family, school or community violence.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that youth has witnessed or experienced violence in his or her family, school or community.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The youth has witnessed occasional fighting or other forms of violence in his or her family, school or community. Youth has not been directly impacted by the violence and exposure has been limited.
- 2 Action Needed. Youth has witnessed multiple instances of family, school, or community violence and/or the significant injury of others, or has had family members or friends injured as a result of violence, or is the direct victim of violence that was not life threatening.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The youth has witnessed or experienced severe and/or repeated instances of family, school or community violence and/or the death of another person as a result of the violence, or is the direct victim of violence that was life threatening, or has experienced chronic or ongoing impact as a result of the violence (e.g., family member injured and no longer able to work).

25. Relationship with Primary Caregiver

This item refers to the youth's relationship with the person who is his/her primary caregiver. This item is not applicable (N/A) for youth in congregate care environments. Most often the primary caregiver is the caregiver with whom you are working on a plan.

- 0 Strength / No Evidence that Action is Needed. The youth has an adaptive, generally positive relationship with his or her primary caregiver. The youth appears to have formed a secure attachment, and can turn to primary caregiver for security, comfort or guidance.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The youth has a mostly adaptive, somewhat positive relationship with his or her primary caregiver. The youth appears to have mild attachment problems that interfere with his/her ability to turn to primary caregiver for security, comfort, or guidance.
- 2 Action Needed. The youth has a limited, somewhat negative relationship with his or her primary caregiver. The youth appears to have moderate attachment problems that interfere with his or her ability to turn to the primary caregiver for security, comfort, or guidance.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The youth has significant difficulties or no ongoing relationship with his or her primary caregiver. The youth appears to have severe attachment problems.
- NA Youth living in congregate care environments are rated Not Applicable.

26. Education

This item refers to the youth's status with school. If the youth has completed his/her schooling then use '0'. If youth has dropped out without completing then use a '3'. This item reflects School Achievement, School Attendance and School Behavior

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the youth is experiencing school problems. Youth has good educational functioning. Youth is meeting or exceeding educational expectation at an age-expected grade level.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. Youth functioning adequately at school, mostly meeting educational expectations at an age-expected grade level.
- 2 Action Needed. Youth is functioning below educational expectations and/or requires a specialized educational setting in order to learn at an adequate level. Youth has been truant at some point during the school year.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. Youth has significant difficulties with educational functioning. Youth has significant educational problems including some behavioral problems related to academic difficulties (chronic truancy, suspensions, expulsions, being held back, etc.). Youth may be placed in a specialized educational setting but remains unable to learn at an adequate level.
- NA Youth who are not school aged would be rated Not Applicable.

27. Physical Health

This item is used to describe the youth's current medical/physical health.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the youth has medical/physical limitations.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The youth has some medical/physical condition that places mild limitations on his or her activities. Conditions such as impaired hearing or vision would be rated here. Treatable medical conditions that result in physical limitations (e.g. asthma) would also be rated here.
- 2 Action Needed. The youth has medical/physical conditions that notably impact his or her activities. Sensory disorders such as blindness, deafness, or significant motor difficulties would be rated here.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The youth has severe limitations due to multiple medical/physical conditions.

28. Developmental

This item refers to the youth's intellectual capacity. Problems could include intellectual and developmental disabilities and learning difficulties that are a result of learning disabilities.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the youth has developmental problems.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The youth has some problems with immaturity or there are concerns about possible developmental delay. Youth may have low IQ.
- 2 Action Needed. The youth has developmental delays or mild developmental or intellectual disabilities.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The youth has severe and pervasive developmental delays or profound intellectual and developmental disabilities.

29. Mental Health

This item is used to describe the youth's current mental health. A formal mental health diagnosis is not required to score this item.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the youth is currently experiencing mental health challenges. The youth has no signs of any notable mental health problems.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The youth has mild problems with adjustment, may be somewhat depressed, withdrawn, irritable, or agitated.
- 2 Action Needed. The youth has moderate mental health challenges and / or a diagnosable mental health problem that interferes with his or her functioning.
- 4 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The youth has significant challenges with his or her mental health. The youth has a serious psychiatric disorder.

30. Substance Use

Please rate the highest level from the past 30 days

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the youth uses alcohol or drugs.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The youth has a history of using alcohol or drugs or there is reason to suspect the youth of substance use.
- 2 Action Needed. The youth has used alcohol or drugs in the past 30 days and there is clear evidence that the use interferes with functioning in any life domain.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The youth requires detoxification OR is addicted to alcohol and/or drugs. Also include here a youth who is intoxicated at the time of the assessment (i.e., currently under the influence).

31. High Risk Behavior

High risk behaviors include self-injurious behavior, behavior that is dangerous to others, sexually promiscuous or aggressive behaviors, or delinquent behaviors.

- 0 No Evidence that Action is Needed. There is no evidence that the youth engages in high risk behaviors.
- 1 History / Watchful Waiting / Prevention. The youth has a history of engaging in high risk behaviors or there is reason to suspect the youth of engaging in high risk behaviors.
- 2 Action Needed. The youth has engaged in high risk behaviors in the past 30 days.
- 3 Immediate or Intensive Action Needed. The youth has engaged in high risk behaviors in the past 30 days that place the youth or others at risk of harm.