

# Prevention Assessment Tool: Interview Guide

Youth Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- *Prior to conducting the initial interview with the youth, review all available collateral information. Items with an asterisk (\*) before them should be corroborated with collateral sources if possible.*
- *These are sample statements. You do not need to read all statements verbatim.*
- *Questions in italics are sample questions that can be used for younger youth (ages 6 – 12).*
- *For Initial Assessments, current means behaviors during the last **6 months**.*
- *For Re-assessments, current means behaviors during the **last 4 weeks** or if a program of less than 4 weeks, current means during the length of the program.*

| SAMPLE INTRODUCTORY/SET-UP STATEMENT  | REMINDERS   |
|---|---|
| Introduce yourself and ask youth how s/he is doing.   | Introduce yourself  |
| This interview is to help me get to know you better.  | Ask the youth how he/she is doing and<br><b>REFLECT</b>   |
| Hopefully, this will also help us to find the best ways to work with you so you don't get into any trouble in the future, and to help you be successful.                                    | Remember to explain the assessment in general and positive terms and in a way that the youth understands. |
| Because this kind of assessment is so important, we will use multiple sources of information like any prior arrest records, information from your teachers and employers, things like that. |   |
| I'm going to take a few notes now and then, just to help me remember what we talk about better. If you have any questions about anything we talk about, please stop me and ask at any time. |   |
| Do you have any questions before we get started?  |   |

\*Check in with the youth related to any contact they may have had with police. If none, move to the next section.

## DOMAIN 1: RECORD OF REFERRALS

| SAMPLE LEAD-IN/PROBES  | REMINDERS   |
|--|---|
| <p>To start, let's talk about any previous experience you have had with the juvenile justice system.</p> <p>* Have you ever been charged with anything by the police?</p> <p>(If no) Have you ever been there when a friend or family member was arrested?</p> <p>Tell me more about what happened.</p> <p>Who was you with?</p> <p>What time of day was it?</p> <p>What were you thinking at the time?</p> <p>How did you feel?</p> <p>What did your parents do?</p> <p>What happened as a result of the arrest?</p> <p>How did it affect you?</p> <p>How did it affect your family/friends?</p> <p>Was anyone else was affected? How so?</p> <p>What do you think about it now?</p> <p>How do you feel about what happened?</p> <p>Would you do anything different if the same situation happened again?</p> | <p>Be sure to use OARS:<br/>           O=Open Ended Questions<br/>           A=Affirmations<br/>           R=Reflections<br/>           S=Summarizations</p> <p>If no to both questions, skip to Domain 3</p> <p>Assessing attitudes</p> <p>Feelings?</p> <p>Assessing family relationships</p> <p>Consequential thinking</p> <p>Assessing attitudes/empathy</p> <p>Assessing skill level</p> <p>Eliciting self-motivational statements</p> <p>Consequential thinking</p> <p>Assessing Attitudes</p> <p>Problem solving</p> |

## DOMAIN 3: SCHOOL

| SAMPLE PROBES   | REMINDERS  |
|---|--|
| <p>Now, let's talk a little bit about school.</p> <p>Are you currently enrolled in school?<br/><i>Do you go to school?</i></p> <p>(If yes) How has school been going for you this year?<br/><i>Do you like it? Do you have friends at school?</i></p> <p>* Talk to me about your attendance at school this term.<br/><i>Do you go every day?</i></p> <p>Tell me about any problems you've had at school this term.<br/><i>What do you like the best/least about school?</i></p> <p>* Talk to me about the grades you get in school?<br/><i>What grades did you get on your report card?</i></p> <p>* Are you failing any classes?</p> <p>* Have you been suspended or expelled from school this term? How many times? What happened?</p> <p>* Do you know if you have any special education needs, or have you had any diagnosis of a special education need?</p> | <p>Use OARS!</p> <p>ITEM CHECKLIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Education need _____</li> <li>• Current Enrollment _____</li> <li>• Behavior/conduct _____</li> <li>• Number of expulsions and suspensions _____</li> <li>• Attendance _____</li> <li>• Grades/GPA _____</li> </ul> |

## DOMAIN 4: USE OF FREE TIME

| SAMPLE PROBES   | REMINDERS:   |
|---|--|
| <p>Tell me what you like to do when you have some free time?<br/><i>What do you like to do when you're not in school?</i></p> <p>Are you in any clubs or groups? Maybe some type of athletics? (Example: football, Boy/Girl Scouts, etc.)</p> <p>How often do you participate in those activities?</p> <p>If you could choose what activities you could do, what would they be?</p> | <p>Use OARS!</p> <hr/> <p>ITEM CHECKLIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently interested      —</li> <li>• Currently participates      —</li> </ul> |

## DOMAIN 5: EMPLOYMENT

| SAMPLE PROBES  | REMINDERS  |
|--|--|
| <p>Let's switch gears and talk about employment.</p> <p>Have you ever had a job? Do you have one now?</p> <p>(If not currently working) Are you looking for a job? How is that going? What kinds of things have you been doing to help find a job?</p> <p>What's the longest you've ever held a job?</p> <p>How do/did you get along with the people at work?</p> <p>What's the best part of the job? The worst part?</p> <p>Talk to me about the most important things you think it takes to keep a job.</p> <p><i>This may be the only appropriate question to ask a younger youth who is mature enough: What do you think it takes to be a good employee?</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use OARS!</li> <li>• Don't ask too many questions in a row</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>ITEM CHECKLIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Employment      —</li> <li>• Understanding job skills      —</li> </ul> |

## DOMAIN 6: RELATIONSHIPS

| SAMPLE PROBES  | REMINDERS   |
|--|---|
| <p>I want to ask you about your relationships with various people in your life.</p> <p>What adults, other than your parents (or guardians), have really been there for you or supportive of you in the past?<br/> <i>Are there any grownups that help you a lot besides your mom or dad?</i></p> <p>(If the youth has worked) Did you feel close to any adults at your job? How did you get along with other adults working there?</p> <p>Tell me about any teachers you get along with really well, and why you think that is.<br/> <i>Is there a teacher at school that you really like and get along with? Why do you think you get along so well with him/her?</i></p> <p>Why did/do you like spending time with these positive adults in your life?</p> | <p>ITEM CHECKLIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of positive adult relationships _____</li> </ul> |
| LEAD-IN/RELATIONSHIP NETWORK PROBE   | REMINDERS   |
| <p>I would like to get a better sense of what kind of friendships you have, and the people you spend time with.</p> <p><b>If you choose to use the friendship mapping exercise:</b><br/>           I'm going to try and sketch a map of your main friends and companions and try to 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.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarize friendship network</li> </ul>  |

**You may choose not to use the friendship mapping exercise, but you still must ask the following:**

Tell me about your friends that you spend time with.

*Tell me about some of your friends. Do you parents know/like your friends?*

What do you do with friends/groups of friends?

*Do you see any of your friends outside of school? What do you guys do?*

What do you like best about friends/groups of friends?

How often do you see your friends/groups of friends?

Who makes the decisions about what you're going to do when you're with your friends/ each group of friends?

*Is there a leader in your group of friends? Who?*

If your friends had an idea to do something wrong, or to break a rule, would you go along with it?

*If your friends were doing something bad, what would you do?*

- No Friends \_\_\_\_\_
- Pro-Social Peers \_\_\_\_\_
- Antisocial Peers \_\_\_\_\_
- Gang \_\_\_\_\_
- Admires \_\_\_\_\_
- Emulates \_\_\_\_\_
- Resistance \_\_\_\_\_

**Pro-Social**

Friend



Acquaintance

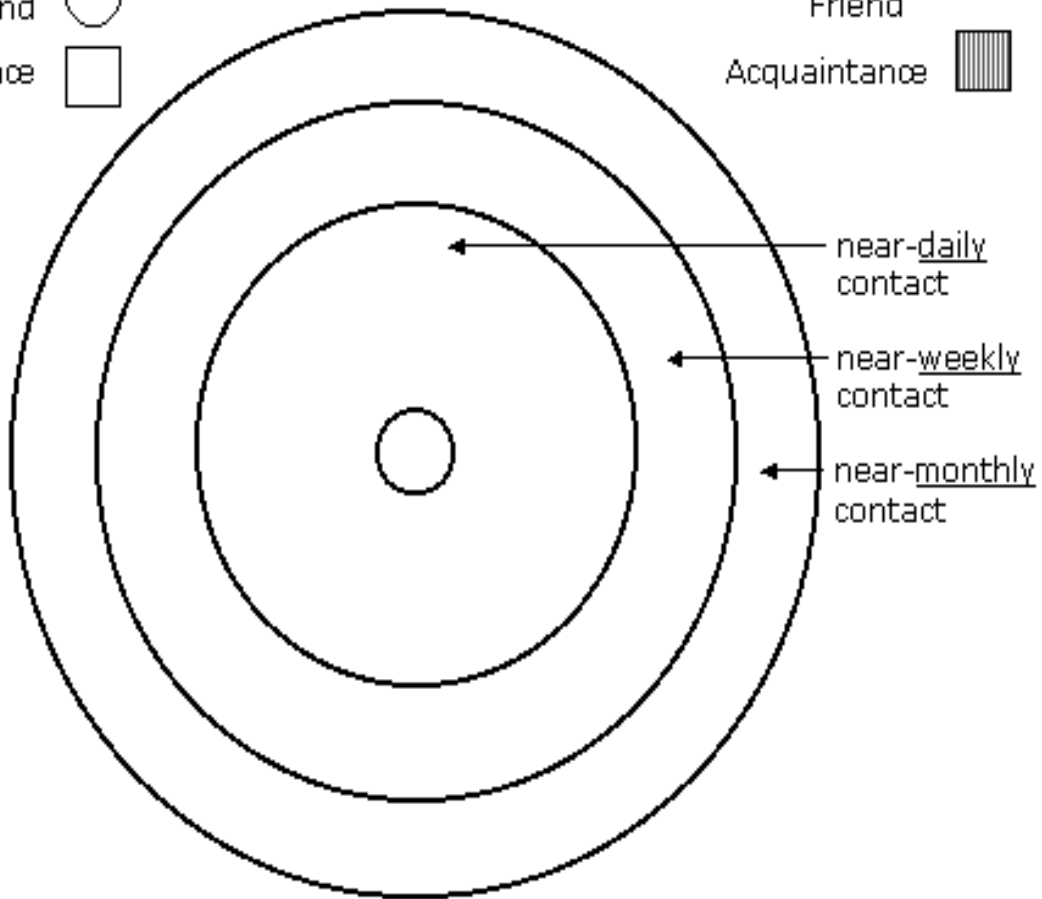


**Pro-Criminal**

Friend



Acquaintance



## DOMAIN 7: FAMILY/LIVING ARRANGEMENT

| SAMPLE PROBES  | REMINDERS  |
|--|--|
| <p>Let's talk about your home life or family. Tell me about the environment where you currently live.</p> <p>* Who are you currently living with and what is their relationship (parent, grandparent, sibling, etc.) to you?<br/><i>Who lives with you?</i></p> <p>Tell me about your current living situation. How long have you been living where you are now? Have you and your family had to move before? How many times? How come?<br/><i>Tell me about where you live. Have you always lived there?</i></p> <p>What sorts of things does your family do together?</p> <p>Has anyone ever been in jail or prison?<br/><i>Has anyone in your house ever been in BIG trouble before?</i></p> <p>Has anyone had serious issues with alcohol? Who?</p> <p>Has anyone had serious issues with drugs? Who?</p> <p>Is there anyone that has had serious health complications? Who has had those problems?<br/><i>Does anyone have to go to the doctor a lot or is really sick?</i></p> <p>Do you know if anyone has had serious issues related to mental health? Who has had those issues?</p> <p>Does everyone living in the house have a job? Do any of them have a hard time keeping a job? Who? Do you know why?<br/><i>Do your parents/household have jobs?</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use summaries regarding family/living arrangements</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>ITEM CHECKLIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jail/prison history _____</li> <li>• Parental problem history _____</li> <li>• Sibling problem history _____</li> </ul> |



Tell me about what happens when you or people in your family have fights.  
*What happens when something goes wrong or someone is upset in your home?*

Tell me about how well you get along with your parents?

What is it like when you and your parents disagree?

Do you get along with your siblings?

What does it look like when you and your siblings disagree?

Do you have a curfew?

Who is there when you get home?  
*Whose home when you get home from school?*

Talk to me about how your parents feel if/when you get into trouble with the law or break important rules they have set?  
*Do you have rules at home? What happens if you don't follow the rules?*

Do you usually follow your parent's rules?  
*Do you get in trouble a lot for not following the rules at home?*

Have you ever run away from home? Why? How many times?

Have you ever been kicked out of the house? Why? When was the last time? How many times?

When you go out, do your parents know who you will be with, where you are going, and when you will return?

ITEM CHECKLIST:

- Conflict at home \_\_\_\_\_
- Parental supervision \_\_\_\_\_
- Youth obeys parents \_\_\_\_\_
- Times run away \_\_\_\_\_
- Times kicked out \_\_\_\_\_

## DOMAIN 8: ALCOHOL and DRUG

| SAMPLE PROBES   | REMINDERS   |
|---|---|
| <p>Let's talk a little bit about your experience with drinking and drugs.</p> <p>Do you drink alcohol? Have you ever tried it? If so, how many times or how often do you drink?<br/> <i>Do you know what alcohol is? Have you ever tried it or had a little sip of it? Tell me more about what you know about alcohol.</i></p> <p>Have you ever gotten a little tipsy or drunk? (If yes) What happened afterwards?</p> <p>Have you ever tried any drugs? Which ones? Have you ever used any over-the-counter drugs to get high?<br/> <i>Do you know what drugs are? Tell me what you know about them.</i></p> <p>Tell me about your experiences with using tobacco like with cigarettes, black and milds, dip, chew, etc.<br/> <i>What do you know about cigarettes or cigars?</i></p> <p>(If yes to alcohol or drugs) I would like to try and map out how your substance use began and progressed, so let's start at the beginning and work our way up to the present.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use OARs!</li> <li>• Try not to ask too many questions in a row.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>ITEM CHECKLIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol use _____</li> <li>• Drug use _____</li> </ul> |

If they admit to trying drugs or you suspect- go into the types:

Talk to me about your experiences with using marijuana (includes spice, k2)

Have you ever tried anything else besides tobacco or marijuana? (If yes, check in on a few of these—make sure it does not feel like a checklist or interrogation; only look into the ones that you think make sense to.)

Do you have any experiences using amphetamines? (meth/speed/uppers/ecstasy/Molly, Adderall)

Have you ever tried or do you use cocaine?

Any experiences with using heroin?

Talk to me about your experiences with using inhalants (anything vaporized, glue, gas, huffing).

Tell me about your experiences with using drugs like LSD or mushrooms (Hallucinogens; ghb/acid).

Explain any experiences you have with using opiates (Demerol/codeine/OxyContin/Roxy).

Tell me about your experiences with using over-the-counter (OTC) medications for the purpose of getting high (cough syrup/Sudafed).

Does it take more drugs or alcohol for you to get the same “high” as when you started using?

What are some of the not-so-good things you get from substance use? Do you get sick? If so, in explain the sickness.

Has the use ever caused problems at home or in school? Talk to me about those problems and how they have affected you and your family.

Tell me about your experiences with using any other drugs.

Have you ever had to participate in a class or treatment about alcohol use? Are you currently participating in one of those classes?

Have you ever had to participate in a class or treatment about drug use? Are you currently participating in one of those classes?

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Tobacco       | ___ |
| Alcohol       | ___ |
| Marijuana     | ___ |
| Amphetamines  | ___ |
| Cocaine       | ___ |
| Heroin        | ___ |
| Inhalants     | ___ |
| hallucinogens | ___ |
| opiates       | ___ |
| OTC           | ___ |
| Other         | ___ |

ITEM CHECKLIST:

- Problems due to alcohol \_\_\_
- Problems due to drugs \_\_\_
- Treatment program history \_\_\_

## DOMAIN 9: MENTAL HEALTH

| SAMPLE PROBES:   | REMINDERS  |
|--|--|
| <p>It will be helpful to know a bit more about how you usually feel.<br/>Do you or have you ever thought about hurting yourself?</p> <p>* Has an adult ever physically hurt you? (If yes) Tell me more...<br/><i>Has a grown-up ever hurt you really bad? How so?</i></p> <p>Has anyone ever touched you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable?<br/><i>Has anyone ever touched you in a way that you weren't okay with? In a way that might have made you feel icky?</i></p> <p>Have you always been taken care of, and given enough to eat?<br/><i>Do you think the grown-ups take pretty good care of you? Do you always have a full belly?</i></p> <p>Do you feel that your parents have always looked out for your safety?<br/>Why/why not?<br/><i>Do mom and dad help make you feel safe when you're with them? What makes you feel safe or not safe?</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use affirmations</li> <li>• Express empathy</li> </ul> <p>ITEM CHECKLIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abuse _____</li> <li>• Sexual Abuse _____</li> <li>• Neglect _____</li> <li>• History of Suicidal Ideation _____</li> <li>• Current Suicidal Ideation _____</li> </ul> |

## DOMAIN 10: ATTITUDES/BEHAVIORS

| SAMPLE PROBES:   | REMINDERS   |
|--|---|
| <p>Now I want to get into what you think about things that may be going on in your life.</p> <p>Why do you think there are rules and laws? Do you think they are they fair? <i>What are laws? (or rules) Why do you think we have them? Is it fair to have laws?</i></p> <p>Who is affected when you get into trouble? <i>Who would care if you got in trouble? Why do you think they care? Does anyone get hurt?</i></p> <p>How do you feel when a teacher or another adult tells you to do something?</p> <p>What happens if you have a disagreement with an adult? <i>What happens if you don't agree with or like what they told you to do?</i></p> <p>How were you feeling the last time you broke a rule/law? <i>How did you feel the last time you didn't follow a rule?</i></p> <p>Why did you break the rule/law? <i>How come you didn't think you needed to follow the rule?</i></p> <p>What makes it hard to have self-control when you're breaking a rule? <i>What does it mean to have self-control? What makes self-control hard?</i></p> <p>Tell me how you would describe a victim. What kinds of effects does a crime have on a victim? <i>What is a victim? How do you think someone feels when they get hurt because someone else broke a rule/law?</i></p> <p>When you think about a victim, what do you think, and how do you feel? <i>How do YOU feel about someone getting hurt because someone else broke the law?</i></p> | <p>Use OARS, especially Reflections</p> <p>ITEM CHECKLIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impulsive _____</li> <li>• Believes he/she can control behavior _____</li> <li>• Empathy _____</li> <li>• Respect for authority _____</li> <li>• Rules apply to him/her _____</li> <li>• Accepts responsibility _____</li> </ul> <p><i>(Remember, even if this youth has never committed a crime, they can still share with you their general feelings on crime victims.)</i></p> |

# DOMAIN 11: AGGRESSION

| SAMPLE PROBES:   | REMINDERS   |
|--|---|
| <p>Let's talk about things that might get you angry or upset.</p> <p>Do you think people want good things to happen to you? Do you think people are out to get you?</p> <p>What's it look like when you manage your anger the way you want to? What does it look like when your anger is hard to manage?<br/> <i>When you get angry, are you able to calm yourself down before something bad happens? What happens if you can't calm yourself down?</i></p> <p>Has there ever been a time when you have lost your temper? Tell me about a time when you have lost your temper. What kinds of things make it hard to control your temper?<br/> <i>What happened the last time you weren't able to calm yourself down when you were really angry? What are some other things that make you angry?</i></p> <p>When have you had to resort to violence? In what kind of situation do you think you'd use violence the most? What is the worst violence you have seen or been involved in?<br/> <i>Have you ever hit or hurt someone when you were angry? When do you think that happens the most? What's the worst you have ever hurt someone? Have you ever seen somebody else hurt another person?</i></p> <p>When is hitting and or yelling at someone a good idea? How do you feel after you hit or yell at someone?<br/> <i>Is it ever ok to hurt or yell at someone? How do you feel after you hurt or yell at someone? Tell me more about that.</i></p> <p>Other probes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What's the worst thing you've done to anybody?</li> <li>○ To an animal?</li> <li>○ Have you ever set fires that could have got you in trouble?</li> <li>○ Threatened anyone?</li> <li>○ Violently destroyed property?</li> <li>○ What's the most dangerous weapon you have ever carried or held?</li> </ul> | <p>ITEM CHECKLIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hostile view of intentions of others _____</li> <li>• Believes physical aggression is appropriate _____</li> <li>• Violent outbursts _____</li> <li>• Using/threatening with a weapon _____</li> <li>• Fire starting _____</li> <li>• Violent destruction of property _____</li> <li>• Animal Cruelty _____</li> <li>• Sexual misconduct _____</li> </ul> |

## DOMAIN 12: SKILLS

| SAMPLE PROBES:  | REMINDERS  |
|---|--|
| <p>Let's talk about some skills you may have and some goals you have.</p> <p>Do you ever find do something without thinking about what could happen or what the consequences could be afterwards? Does this happen to you often?</p> <p>Would you not do something because you know you could possibly get into trouble if you did do it, or do you do it anyway and hope you won't get caught?<br/><i>If your friends were doing something bad, would you do it too and hope you didn't get caught or would you NOT do it because you know you might get in trouble?</i></p> | <p>Use OARS! Try to elicit further information from the youth.</p> <p>Use phrases such as:<br/>"Tell me more about that"<br/>"What was that like"<br/>"Can you give me some examples of that"</p> <p>If a youth has already told you about a situation where there was a consequence (good or bad), refer back to analyze</p>  |
| <p>Explain whether you think what happens to you in life is the result of your actions. (What goes around, comes around)<br/><i>Do you think that when you do good things, good things will happen to you? Or if you do bad things, bad things will happen to you?</i></p>  | <p>ITEM CHECKLIST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consequential thinking _____</li> <li>• Goal setting _____</li> <li>• Problem-solving _____</li> <li>• Dealing with others _____</li> <li>• Dealing with difficult situations _____</li> <li>• Dealing with feelings _____</li> <li>• Impulse control _____</li> <li>• Controlling aggression _____</li> </ul> |
| <p>Explain to me some goals you have set for your future.<br/><i>What kinds of things do you hope will happen to you when you get older?</i></p>  |  |
| <p>Do you see those goals as realistic, meaning you truly believe you can and will accomplish them?</p>   |  |
| <p>What are some goals that you have set and achieved? Tell me more about that.</p>   |  |
| <p>Explain how well you get along with most people.<br/><i>Do you get along with most people? Tell me more about that.</i></p>  |  |
| <p>How do you know if you are beginning to have a problem with some person, place or thing?<br/><i>How do you know if someone may not like you without them telling you?</i></p>  |  |
| <p>When you are feeling things like anger, fear or depression – what kinds of things do you do to manage and work through these feelings?<br/><i>How do you try to keep yourself calm?</i></p>  |  |
| <p>Explain how you deal with situations that you don't like or are difficult.</p>   |  |

## CLOSE-OUT OF THE INTERVIEW:

### **Sample magic questions:**

- Where would you like to be in, let's say, two years?
  
- If you had three wishes, what would they be?
  - 
  - 
  -

“Please ask me any questions you have about anything we talked about today.”

“Thank you taking time to talk to me. I really appreciate your willingness and honesty talking about all of this. Let me know if you want to go over the results of your assessment later.”