

## Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 1. Prescreen

**Question:** When a new referral comes in and the youth has already had a YASI prescreen done (but not a full assessment) do I create a new prescreen or update the initial one?

**Answer:** You should update the initial prescreen.

**Question:** What do I do when a youth who has had a full YASI completed gets off supervision and then I get a new referral? Do I have to start over from scratch with a new YASI?

**Answer:** If the referral is for a youth who has previously been on supervision, the most recent closing reassessment should be copied and carried forward, a new interview of the youth shall be conducted, and the assessment shall be updated.

**Question:** What counts as “police contact” under “number of police contacts” (Q3)?

**Answer:**

- Any episode that ends in the county taking an action that results in diversion or adjudication, including
  - Counsel and close
  - Citations for criminal behaviors (that were not otherwise referred)
  - Deferred Prosecution Agreement
  - Referral to the prosecutor’s office for a petition
- This does not include charges that were dropped or petitions the District Attorney’s office fails to prosecute within legal timelines. (However, the acts in question may be scored for other purposes, such as in Violence/Aggression item 1.)
- Multiple charges stemming from one incident count together as one contact, but multiple incidents grouped together under one petition count as separate contacts.

**Question:** When scoring current and past offenses (Q4), including those involving firearms/weapons (Q6), should I include current charges even when they have not been adjudicated?

**Answer:** Yes. If a youth completes their intake and/or court process and they are not adjudicated for some offenses, or charges are amended, you should go back and revise the youth’s legal history items accordingly (and mark that you did so). This should be done prior to completing the full assessment.

**Question:** In Caseworks, what does “Initial Assessment” mean? Is this related to CPS?

**Answer:** In CaseWorks, “Initial Assessment” includes both the prescreen and the full assessment (if applicable) administered at intake for the current YJ episode. “Prescreen” or “Full Assessment” are displayed as the completion status for the “Initial Assessment.” This term is meant to distinguish from reassessments, including closing assessments, and is not related to CPS IA.

## 2. Full Assessment

**Question:** When a new referral comes in for a youth currently on supervision, should we update the current YASI or create a new one?

**Answer:** When a youth on active supervision receives a new referral, you should not create a new YASI if one has already been done. You may opt to reassess the youth. Per 3.05(2), any major life events (which could include a major incident or significant school event) should trigger a possible reassessment, pending a review with a supervisor to determine if a reassessment is necessary.

**Question:** Can/Should YASI be administered in JIPS cases?

**Answer:** It depends on the specific statute. In general, the YASI is not ideal for youth who primarily need mental health services, but it is appropriate for other high-risk behaviors.

- The YASI may be administered for youth referred for truancy (§938.13(6)) and youth referred as runaways (§938.13(7)).
- The YASI may not be administered for youth under 10 years of age referred for delinquent acts (see policy 3.01(1)(b) and 3.03(1)(b)).
- Youth referred as school dropouts (§938.13(6m)), and youth referred as JIPS due to subsections §938.13(4) – uncontrollable or (14) not responsible or not competent, will require a determination between the assessor and county supervisor on a case by case basis.

**Question:** How do I score family when a youth has been all over the place? Should I score based on the bio family? Group Home? Foster family?

**Answer:** On dynamic items, you should score based upon what family looks like now and where it is going next (i.e. whether there will be a placement recommendation as a part of disposition) – Refer to language from Orbis ‘parole’ hand-out.

**Question:** Should behavioral diagnoses like Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Conduct Disorder, and Disruptive Behavior Disorder go into the mental health section under “other”? What about anxiety disorders?

**Answer:** CD, ODD, and DBD should not be scored in the mental health section, since components of these behaviors are captured elsewhere. Anxiety disorders can be scored as “other”. Note also that ADHD is addressed in the school section and not in mental health.

**Question:** When scoring items that refer to a “pattern” of behavior, what is the threshold for a pattern?

**Answer:** In the YASI, a “pattern” generally means two or more unique instances.

**Question:** How should I score Aggression Item 1 for youth alleged to have engaged in a single bullying/threatening incident (i.e., there is no “pattern” of behavior)?

**Answer:** For most checkboxes in this item, a single incident is sufficient for scoring. However, bullying/threatening should only be scored for a pattern of 2 or more instances, or for a terroristic threat.

**Question:** When only a prescreen has been completed, is there the ability or requirement to do a closing assessment (such as upon successful completion of a DPA)?

**Answer:** No. Youth who have not received a full assessment do not need to have a closing assessment completed. Workers may close the case by navigating to the assessment screen and selecting the “close case” icon on the left. When a case is closed, the prescreen is archived so it can be accessed and updated if the same youth is referred in the future.

### **3. Case Planning**

**Question:** I have completed the full assessment and the ABCD. Do I choose the three domain areas and have the youth rank them by number order, or does the youth pick the three domain areas? Am I supposed to write goals based on the conversation with the youth or is the youth supposed to help with wording the goals?

**Answer:** You should choose the three areas and then have the youth pick the order in which to address them. Then, when discussing these areas, you and the youth/family can come up with the goals together. You will pretty much drive that conversation, but it is always helpful to use the youth’s wording. For example, you might want to “Increase family interaction” and the youth might say “Spend more time with my family”. These are basically the same thing, but the youth might find more meaning in their own wording. When you list goals in the case plan you can feel free to put both versions in, if you want; something like “Increase family interaction: (Spend more time with my family)”. Eventually we may have drop down lists for goals and then you could choose “Increase family interaction” and then list “Spend more time with my family” as part of an Action Step under that goal.

**Question:** Do we share risk level with the courts/court report? If they want it, how do we message that?

**Answer:** DCF is developing a template for filling this information in on their dispositional reports. Though it is not specified in the current policy draft, the template will include a place for sharing both the youth’s prescreen risk and strength levels as well as their dynamic risk level based on the full assessment.