

Ohio Risk Assessment System - Supplemental Reentry Tool (ORAS-SRT) Interview Guide

Conducting the Interview

The interview guide is designed to assist the assessor in gathering the information necessary to accurately assess the offender. It is important to establish rapport with the offender. While it is recommended that the interview guide be closely followed, the wording of the questions may vary. Here are some tips for conducting the interview:

- Conduct the interview in a relaxed and private environment
- Explain the purpose of the interview and stress the need for honesty and complete answers to questions
- Do not hesitate to use follow-up questions and probe. Examples of follow-up questions:
 - Tell me more. I want to be certain that I understand you.
 - What happened next?
 - Could you explain that further?
 - What do you mean?
 - Can you describe some examples?
 - How did that make you feel?
- Remember what information you are trying to obtain. Develop clear examples and remember there are sometimes differences in perception.
- Remember that the interviewer sets the tone. Be patient and try not to correct or teach
- Whenever possible use open-ended questions where the respondent provides his or her opinion and is able to elaborate. For example, “Tell me more about your relationship with....”
- Avoid double-barreled questions where the respondent is asked a combination of questions:
 - “How is your relationship with your mother and father?”
- Avoid biased questions where the respondent is led in a certain direction:
 - “Your relationship with your mother isn’t bad, is it?”

Also remember that the interview is only one source of information. Official records, the self-report questionnaire, and collateral sources such as family members or other professionals should also be consulted. It is important that to corroborate the offenders' responses whenever possible.

SECTION 1: GENERAL RISK/NEED DOMAINS

1.0 Criminal History

The first section of the interview is designed to gather information necessary to score the Criminal History domain of the tool. While some of this information can be obtained from official records, it is still recommended that the assessor ask the offender about the current offense and past criminal behavior. This information will help score other areas of the assessment, particularly the Criminal Attitudes and Behavioral Patterns section. It is important to corroborate self-report information in this area with official records.

The following items are scored in this area:

1.1 Most Serious Arrest or Charge Under Age 18:

- 0=None
- 1=Yes, Misdemeanor
- 2=Yes, Felony

1.2 Age at First Arrest or Charge:

- 0=26+
- 1=16-25
- 2=15 or younger

1.3 Prior Commitment as a Juvenile to Department of Youth Services:

- 0=No
- 1=Yes

1.4 Current Offense Drug Related:

- 0=No
- 1=Yes

1.5 Number of Prior Adult Felony Convictions:

- 0=None
- 1=One
- 2=Two or More

1.6 Number of Prior Adult Commitments to Prison:

- 0=None
- 1=One
- 2=Two or more

1.7 Ever Received Official Misconduct for Violence in Prison as Adult:

0=No

1=Yes

1.8. Ever Absconded from Community Supervision as an Adult:

0=No

1=Yes

Question about Age:

What is your Age? _____

Questions for Criminal History Domain:

1a. Tell me about the first time you were ever arrested or charged? _____

1b. How old were you when you were first arrested or charged? _____

1c. What was it for? _____

1d. Were you ever commitment to the Department of Youth Services ___ Yes ___ No

What was it for? _____

I want to now ask you about your criminal record as an adult. The following questions pertain to adult criminal history.

1e. Tell me about what happened the day you were arrested. _____

1f. Why did you decide to commit the offense? _____

1g. What part did others play in the offense? _____

1h. Were any of your charges drug related? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, what were they? _____

1i. How many times have you been convicted of a felony? _____

1j. How many times have you been sentenced to prison? _____

1k. Have you ever been sentenced to another type of secure correctional facility like a CBCF?
__ No __ Yes

How many times? _____

1l. While you were ever incarcerated did you ever get written up or punished for misconduct?
__ No __ Yes How many times? _____

What was it for? (Probe to see if any misconducts were for violence.)

Did any of the misconducts involve the use of violence? __ Yes __ No

1m. What was the result of the misconduct? _____

1n. How did you feel about the sanction you received? _____

1o. Have you ever attempted escape from a correctional facility?

Were you ever charged with escape? __ Yes __ No

1p. Have you ever been on probation or parole? __ Yes __ No

1q. Have you ever absconded from supervision? _____

What happened? _____

2.0 Education, Employment, and Social Support

This domain is designed to gather information about the offender's past school behavior, employment, and marital status. It is fairly straightforward and most respondents will be forthcoming. The family and social support section examines the familial and social support of the offender. Research has shown that an individual's family and social support can influence the probability of future criminal behavior. Individuals with family and social support systems who are supportive or tolerant of criminal behavior are more likely to engage in criminal behavior. Alternatively, individuals who have a strong family or social support network, which condemn criminal activities, reduces the likelihood that an individual will engage in future criminal behavior.

The following items are scored in this area:

2.1 Ever Suspended or Expelled From School:

- 0=No
- 1=Yes

2.2. Employed at the Time of Arrest:

- 0=Yes
- 1=No

2.3 Ever Quit a Job Before Having Another One:

- 0=No
- 1=Yes

2.4 Employed just Prior to Incarceration:

- 0=Yes, Full-time, Disabled, or Retired
- 1=Not employed or employed part-time

2.5 Longest Length of Employment Past Two Years:

- 0=18 months or more
- 1=1-17 months
- 2=Less than 1 Month

2.6 Marital Status:

- 0=Married or cohabitating with a significant other
- 1=Single, married but separated, divorced, or widowed

2.7 Living Situation Prior to Incarceration:

- 0=Significant Other
- 1=Parent, Friends, Other
- 2= Alone or Shelter

Questions for Education, Employment, and Support:

2a. Tell me about problems you might have had in school? _____

2b. Were you ever suspended or expelled from school? No Yes
What happened? _____

2c. Were you working at the time of your arrest? No Yes
What were you doing? _____
Was the work under the table? Yes No

2d. Have you ever quit a job before having another one? No Yes
Tell me about it: _____

2e. Were you employed just prior to this commitment? No, Why not: _____
 Yes Full time Part Time Seasonal

What were you doing? _____
Is the work under the table? Yes No

2f. During the past two years how many months did you work? _____

2g. Tell me about your marital situation: Are you married? Yes No
Involved with anyone? _____
Tell me about your marital situation: _____

Who will you live with when released? _____

2h. Who were you living with during the past year? _____

2i. How long have you lived at your current address? _____

Do you get mail there? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you pay rent or a mortgage? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you have your own room? ___ Yes ___ No

3.0 Substance Use And Mental Health

This domain asks about substance use and mental health. The questions related to substance use examine the occurrence of substance use in the offender's life and the extent to which its use has caused problems across varying aspects of the offender's life. Substance use can be pervasive in its ability to influence multiple aspects of a person's life including involvement with the legal system, issues with loved ones and friends, health and social service problems, and its interaction with seeking or maintaining employment. For this domain alcohol and drug use are separated.

The following items are scored in this area:

3.1 Longest Period of Abstinence from Alcohol:

0= 6 months or longer

1=Less than 6 months

3.2 Problems with Employment due to Drug Use:

0=No

1=Yes

3.3 Problems with Health due to Drug Use:

0=No

1=Yes

3.4 Ever Diagnosed with Mental Illness/Disorder:

0=No

1=Yes

Questions for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Domain:

Let's talk about your substance use.

3a. Have you ever had a problem with alcohol? ___ No ___ Yes

3b. Describe your drinking habits. _____

3c. What is the longest period you have abstained from drinking? _____

3d. Have you ever used drugs while you were at work? _____

3e. Has your drug use ever caused you problems with a job? ___ No ___ Yes

Have you ever had a boss suggest that you have a problem with drugs? _____

What happened? _____

3f. Have you ever had any medical problems due to drug use? ___ No ___ Yes

If yes, please explain: _____

Have you ever had a doctor told you to either quit or cut down on drug use? _____

3g. If drugs or alcohol are a problem, ask the offender if they are willing to consider going to a program. _____

3h. Have you ever seen a psychiatrist or psychologist? ___ Yes ___ No

What for? _____

3i. Have you ever been diagnosed for a mental illness? ___ Yes ___ No

What was the diagnosis? _____

Are you on medication for the mental illness? ___ Yes ___ No

4.0 Criminal Attitudes and Behavioral Patterns

This section addresses the criminal attitudes of the offender as well as some personality traits that can often lead to criminal behavior. In addition to the specific questions for this item, the interviewer should score this item from the totality of the responses in the interview. Listen for rationalizations, minimizations, and justifications of behavior throughout the interview. There are 7 items in this domain with a total possible score of 11.

The Following Items are Scored in this Domain:

4.1 Gang Membership:

- 0=No, never
- 1=Yes, but not current
- 2=Yes, current

4.2 Criminal Activities:

- 0=Strong identification with pro-social activities
- 1=Mixture of pro- and antisocial activities
- 2=Strong identification with criminal activities

4.3 Ability to Control Anger:

- 0=Good
- 1=Poor

4.4 Uses anger to intimidate others:

- 0=No
- 1=Yes

4.5 Walks Away from a Fight:

- 0=Yes
- 1=Sometimes
- 2=Rarely

4.6 Problem Solving Ability:

- 0=Good
- 1=Poor

4.7 Acts Impulsively:

- 0=No
- 1=Yes

4.8 Feels Lack of Control over Events:

- 0=Controls events
- 1=Sometimes lacks control
- 2=Generally lacks control

4.9 Criminal Pride:

- 0=No pride in criminal behavior
- 1=Some pride
- 2=A lot of pride

4.10 Believes it is possible to overcome past:

0=Yes

1=No

4.11 Expresses Concern about Other's Misfortunes:

0=Concerned about others

1=Limited concern

2=No real concern for others

4.12 Believes in "Do Unto Others Before They Do Unto You":

0=Disagree

1=Sometimes

2=Agrees

Question for the Criminal Lifestyle:

4a. Have you ever been in a gang? ___ No ___ Yes

When? _____

Are you in one now? ___ No ___ Yes

If yes, probe for more information: _____

I now want to ask you about your friends. This can include family members (e.g., brothers, sisters, cousins) if you consider them to be close friends and regularly hand out with them.

4b. How many close friends would you say you have? _____

How often do you see them? _____

What are some the activities you like to do with your family and friends? _____

Have any of your close friends been involved in criminal behavior? _____

4c. Do you have any hobbies or interests? _____

Do you belong to any groups or clubs? _____

Do you go to church? _____

(Probe to find out degree to which the offender is involved in prosocial activities).

4d. I want to ask you about your temper. Tell me about the times you have lost your temper:

What happened? _____

Have you ever hurt anyone because you lost your temper? _____

4e. When you want someone to do something they don't necessarily want to do, how do you get them to do it? _____

Give some examples: _____

4f. Have you ever been charged with intimidation, threatening others or using violence? _____

Please explain what happened? _____

4g. Have you ever been written up for intimidation, threatening others or using violence? _____

4h. Would you describe yourself as someone who "Walks Away from a fight," "Tries to avoid it but it seems to find you," or "first one in?" _____

If Self Report is used, assessor does not need to ask the following question.

If I asked you to rate yourself on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being "walks away," and 5 being "first one in," how would you rate yourself? _____

Probe to determine if the offender has a history of using violence or intimidation to get what they want.

4i. Can you describe some high risk situations you might encounter when released? _____

4j. What would be some different ways you might handle these situations? _____

Probe to see if offender can recognize risky situations and multiple and realistic ways to handle them

4k. What do you think you need to do to stay out of trouble when you get out of prison? _____

4l. What are some of the things you have tried in the past to stay out of trouble with the law? _____

Are there some other things you have yet to try? _____

_____ Good Problem Solving Skills _____ Poor Problem Solving Skills

4m. Would you describe yourself as someone with a short fuse or a long fuse? _____

If Self Report is used, assessor does not need to ask the following question.

4n. If I asked you to rate yourself on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 having a short fuse and 5 having a long fuse, how would you rate yourself? _____

_____ Good Control of Temper _____ Some Control _____ Poor Control of Temper

4o. Have you ever acted without thinking? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, tell me about it: _____

Would others describe you as being a spur of the moment person or a planner? _____

If Self Report is used, assessor does not need to ask the following question.

If I asked you to rate yourself on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 being a spur of the moment person and 5 being a planner how would you rate yourself? _____

Now I want you to think about how things have been going for you recently.

4p. Do you sometimes feel that you have lost control over events in your life? _____

Why? _____

If Self Report is used, assessor does not need to ask the following question.

___ Feels in Control over Events ___ Sometimes lacks control ___ Generally lacks control

Let's talk again about the trouble you got in that led to your incarceration.

4q. How do you feel about what happened? _____

4r. How has your criminal behavior affected others? (Probe to see if offender recognizes victims, including their own family.) _____

4s. How do you think they feel about what you did? _____

4t. Tell me what you think about what you did? _____

4u. Do you think your sentence was fair? _____

4v. Should you have received a lighter sentence? _____

4w. What do you think contributed to you committing your crime? _____

Rate offender's pride in criminal behavior:

____ No pride in criminal behavior ____ Some pride ____ A lot of pride

4x. How hard do you think it is for someone with a record to get ahead? _____

4y. Do you believe it is possible to overcome the past? _____

If Self-Report is used, assessor does not need to ask the following question.

If I asked you to rate whether or not you can overcome your past on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being "Strongly agree" and 5 being "Strongly Disagree," how would you rate yourself? _____

Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly
Disagree				Disagree
1	2	3	4	5

4z. As a general rule, do you worry about other people's misfortunes? _____

If yes, ask for examples: _____

If Self-Report is used, assessor does not need to ask the following question.

If I asked you to rate yourself on whether you often get concerned when you hear about other people's problems on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being "Strongly Agree" and 5 being "Strongly Disagree," how would you rate yourself?

Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree

Even though self-report can be used for this question it is recommended that the assessor double check to make sure the offender understood the question.

4aa. Have you ever heard the saying, "Do Unto Others *Before* They Do Unto You?" In general do you:

___ Disagree with statement, ___ depends on the situation, or ___ Agree with statement

4bb. How do you feel about getting some help or participating in programs? _____

Any additional comments:

SELF-REPORT SURVEY – SUPPLEMENTAL REENTRY TOOL

Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

The following questions ask about several things in your life, such as education, employment, family, friends, and your beliefs. Please answer the following questions the best you can. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. Some questions will be simple yes/no questions and others will ask you to circle a number which corresponds to how much that statement reflects your beliefs or is "true" for you.

1. Age _____

2. In school were you ever suspended or expelled? Yes _ No _____

3. Were you employed at the time of your arrest? _____

If yes, how many hours per week did you work? _____

4. Have you ever quit a job without having another one? Yes _ No _____

5. Were you employed just prior to incarceration?

_____ Full-time

_____ Part-time

_____ No, I was on disability

_____ No, I was retired

_____ No, I was not employed

6. How many months were you employed in the past two years (prior to incarceration)? _____

7. Current Marital Status:

_____ Married (or common law)

_____ Divorced

_____ Single

_____ Widowed

_____ Separated

8. Who were you living with prior to incarceration?

_____ Spouse or Significant Other

_____ Family

_____ Friend

_____ Alone

_____ On the Street or Shelter

_____ Other (Please indicate) _____

9. Since you started drinking on a regular basis, what is the longest period of time you have gone without drinking? _____

10. If you have never drank, check box:

11. Have you ever had any health related problems due to illegal drug use?

YES _____ (Please Explain) _____

NO _____

For the following statements circle the answer that best describes how you feel

12. It is possible to overcome your past.

Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	2	3	4	5

13. Would others describe you as someone who walks away from a fight or the first to get into it?

Always walks away	Usually walks away	Sometimes walks away	Rarely walks away	First one in
1	2	3	4	5

14. I'm often concerned when I hear about other people's problems.

Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	2	3	4	5

15. How much do you agree with the statement: "**Do unto others *before* they do unto you?**"

Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	2	3	4	5

16. Would others describe you as being a spur of the moment person or a planner?

Spur of the Moment				Planner
1	2	3	4	5

17. Lately, I have felt a lack of control over events in my life.

Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	2	3	4	5

18. Do you consider yourself as having a short or long fuse on your temper?

Short Fuse				Long Fuse
1	2	3	4	5

THANK YOU.