



OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY
Policy Statement
Part II – Youth Services (Facilities)



Subject:

Sex Offender Risk Assessment [Facility]

Section – Policy Number:

E: Programming – 5.0

Supersedes:

II-E-5.0 (11/07)
II-E-5.0 (10/05)

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Related Standards and References:

- ORS [419C.486](#) (Consideration of recommendations of committing court; case planning)
- ORS [420A.125](#) (Youth offenders; intake assessments; reformation plan; placement)
- OYA policy: [I-A-11.0](#) (Assessment, Multidisciplinary Teams, and Case Planning)
- [III-C-3.0](#) (Sex Offender Risk Assessment [Field])
- OYA forms: YA 3002 - (J) Case Plan Report - MDT Field

Related Procedures:

- None

Policy Owner:

Development Services Assistant
 Director

Approved:


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I. PURPOSE:

This policy provides guidelines for assessing OYA youth (placed in close-custody facilities) who received formal court action for a sex crime to identify their risks, needs, strengths, and available interventions.

Refer to OYA policy III-C-3.0 (Sex Offender Risk Assessment [Field]) regarding youth in OYA community placements.

II. POLICY DEFINITIONS:

Case Plan: A case plan is a formal plan with prescribed interventions and documentation requirements and is a tool to assist staff in managing cases, setting goals and reviewing a youth's interventions and progress. A case plan constitutes and fulfills the requirements of the Reformation Plan as defined in ORS 420A.005, 420A.125 and 420A.010 and is created and maintained in the statewide Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).

ERASOR: The Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism (ERASOR; Worling & Curwen, 2001) is an empirically-guided checklist designed to assist evaluators to estimate the short-term risk of a sexual re-offense for

youth aged 12 up to and including 18 years. The ERASOR provides objective coding instructions for 25 risk factors (16 dynamic and 9 static), and is designed to assess a youth's risk/needs for a period of six months. Factors considered in the ERASOR should be reassessed periodically to evaluate changes in the areas of short-term risk and treatment needs. OYA continues to assess youth beyond 18 years of age with the ERASOR for historical tracking.

Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS): The Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) is a statewide-integrated electronic information system designed, developed, and implemented to support a continuum of services and shared responsibility among all members of the juvenile justice community. In a collaborative partnership between the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and Oregon's county juvenile departments, JJIS is administered by the State of Oregon through OYA.

Multidisciplinary Team (MDT): A team of individuals who work collaboratively to develop and maintain a comprehensive individualized case plan that is culturally competent and gender-specific for each youth committed to the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA). The MDT is based on a core team membership consisting of the youth, OYA primary case manager, placement representative, QMHP (facility)/treatment provider (community), tribal representative (for youth enrolled in one of Oregon's federally recognized tribes) and the youth's parents/guardians. Additional team members vary and are identified by the core team based on the youth's Risk Needs Assessment, identified criminogenic needs and placement.

III. **POLICY:**

OYA's objective is to protect the public by ensuring youth accountability, promoting change, developing/improving skills, and reducing the likelihood that youth will commit more crime.

Adolescent sex offender risk assessments attempt to describe factors likely to increase and decrease occurrence of a specified behavior. There are currently no empirically-validated instruments for assessing the risk of adolescent sexual reoffending. OYA will conduct an adolescent sex offender risk assessment using the *ERASOR* on all youth who received formal court action for a sex crime and are committed to OYA custody or placed by the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) in the physical custody of OYA, to identify their risks, needs, strengths, and available interventions. The identification of areas of risk/treatment need is one of the first steps in case plan development. The *ERASOR* must be completed as specified in this policy and OYA protocols for workflow related to case planning.

The *ERASOR* must be conducted only by approved and trained staff or contracted providers.

Proper administration of the *ERASOR* depends on obtaining data from multiple sources including interviews with the youth, youth's family members and/or caretakers, mental health professionals familiar with the youth, teachers, and others familiar with the youth. Psychological tests, behavioral observation, record review, and data collected on static and dynamic variables are included.

Information collected solely from youth interviews or a file review is not sufficient to properly administer the *ERASOR*.

Final risk estimates (high, moderate, and low) are subjectively derived and based on clinical judgment. Generally, the more high-risk indicators will yield a higher risk index. However, presence of a single risk factor may yield a high risk index, such as a credible stated intention to reoffend.

The results of an *ERASOR* must not be the sole determining factor in youth case planning decisions such as placement, custody termination, or parole. The *ERASOR* results must be used by a youth's Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) along with all other available assessments and information to determine the youth's current, short-term risks and treatment needs.

IV. GENERAL STANDARDS:

A. Assessment eligibility

A youth committed to a OYA close-custody facility must be assessed with the *ERASOR* if the youth was:

1. Adjudicated for, or convicted of, a sex crime¹; or
2. Referred for a sex crime but adjudicated for, or convicted of, a non-sex crime, **and** the court made an acknowledgement or finding that there was sexual activity involved in the crime.

B. Initial Assessment

The *ERASOR* sex offender risk assessment is used by the MDT as part of youth treatment planning and placement strategies. The *ERASOR* is administered in conjunction with other assessments to determine placement and short-term goals to address any immediate treatment needs.

1. Staff must ensure all eligible youth are assessed using the *ERASOR* in addition to other assessments required upon admission to a close-custody facility.
2. The *ERASOR* must be administered within 30 days of a youth's initial admission to an OYA facility before the youth's initial MDT meeting. The MDT must consider the *ERASOR* results along with all other relevant youth information and assessments.
3. The *ERASOR* must be administered by approved and trained staff including, but not limited to, treatment managers, Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHPs), contracted mental health professionals, and youth corrections unit coordinators (YCUCs).
4. Youth who have been assessed with an *ERASOR* within six months prior to intake are not required to have another at intake.

Staff must obtain a copy of the assessment (if possible), file it in the youth's case file, and record the *ERASOR* Summary Sheet with narrative in the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). This allows the MDT to evaluate the youth's risk/needs changes.

C. Guidelines for Reassessment

ERASOR assessment findings are time-limited. *ERASOR* reassessments must occur according to the following guidelines:

1. At least annually;
2. Within six months prior to a youth's transition into the community (residential placement, foster care, a family member's home, or independent living) to compare against data from previous *ERASOR* assessments; and
3. Upon recommendation from the youth's MDT following significant changes in one or more risk factors.

D. Recording the results of the *ERASOR* Assessment in JJIS

1. Staff must record the assessment narrative and results of any *ERASOR* assessment conducted in accordance with this policy in JJIS.
2. Each facility must designate staff to record the *ERASOR* narrative and results in JJIS.

V. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURE REQUIRED: NO

¹ Youth adjudicated for (or convicted of) the following crimes are subject to *ERASOR* assessments:

- Rape, sodomy, unlawful sexual penetration or sexual abuse in any degree;
- Incest with a child victim;
- Using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct;
- Encouraging child sexual abuse in any degree;
- Transporting child pornography into the state;
- Paying for viewing a child's sexually explicit conduct;
- Compelling or promoting prostitution;
- Kidnapping in the first degree if the victim was under 18 years of age;
- Contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor;
- Sexual misconduct;
- Possession of materials depicting sexually explicit conduct of a child in the first degree;
- Kidnapping in the second degree if the victim was under 18 years of age, except by a parent or by a person found to be within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court;
- Sexual assault of an animal;
- Burglary, when committed with intent to commit any of the offenses listed above;
- Public or private indecency;
- Harassment, touch intimate part;
- Any attempt to commit any of the offenses listed above.