



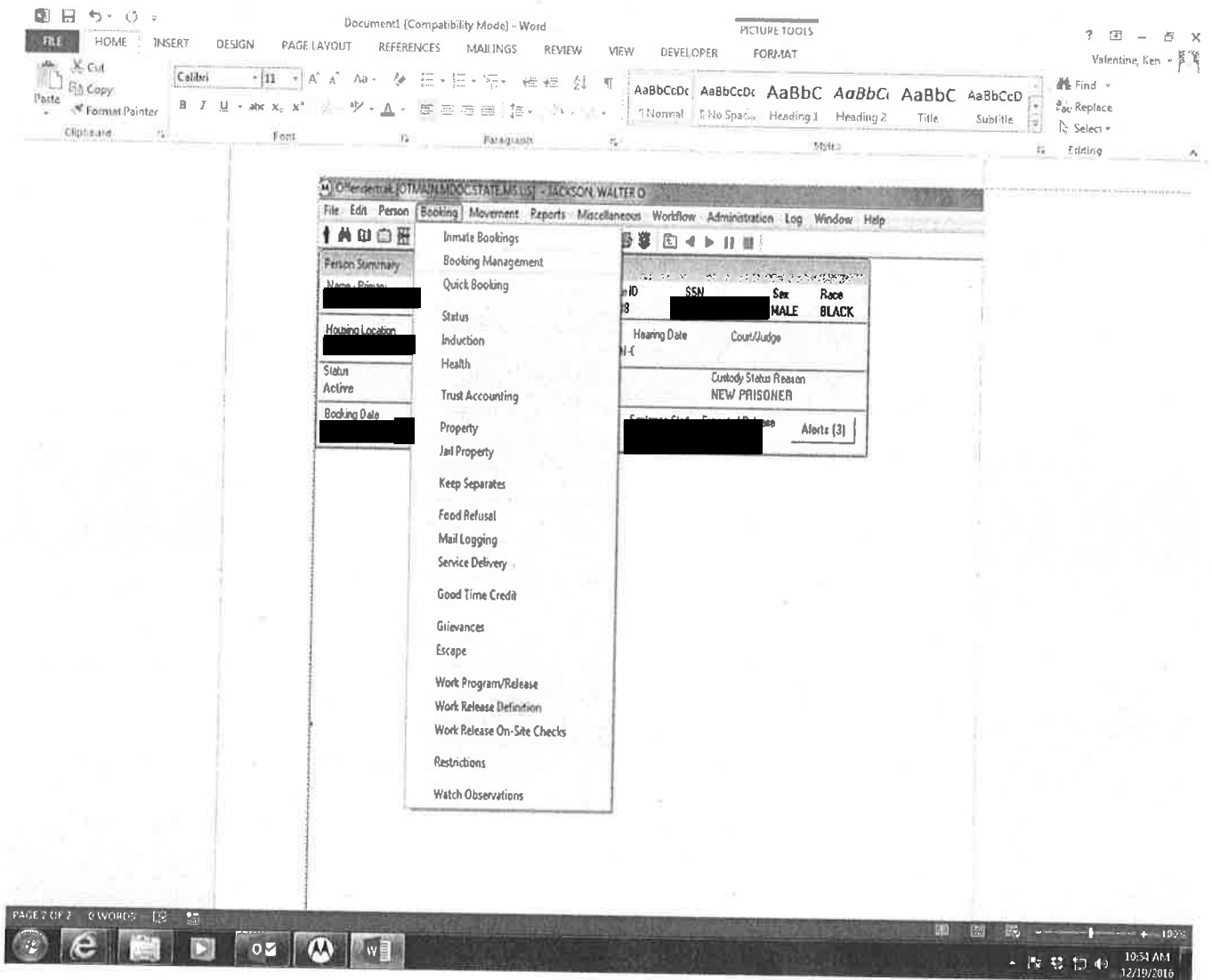
Mississippi Department of Corrections
Risk and Needs - Questionnaire
Scoring Guide

The Crime and Justice Institute at CRJ
8-18-2016

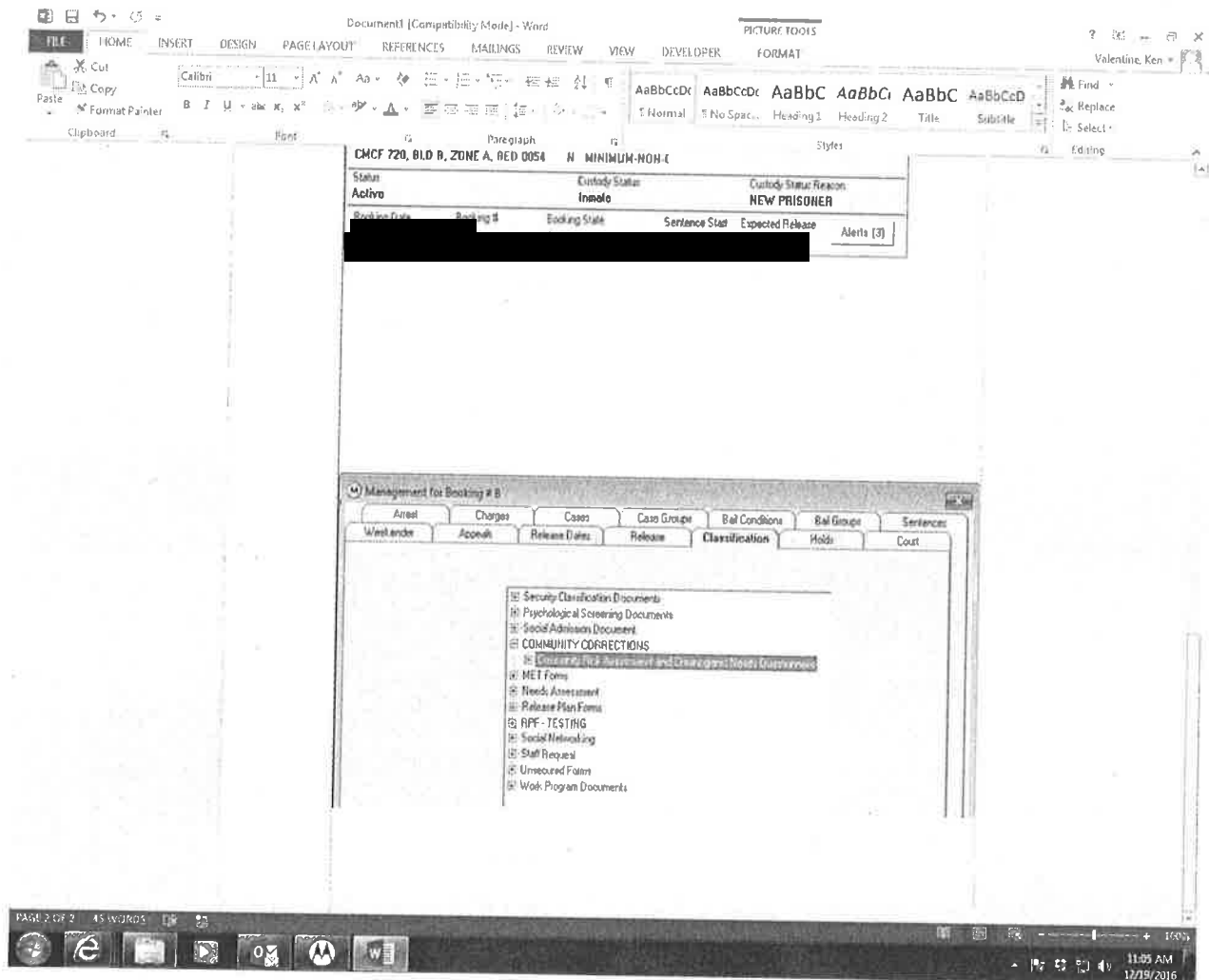
MDOC Risk Assessment and Needs Q Scoring Guide

This guide is designed to assist in the scoring of the two part MDOC Risk Assessment and Criminogenic Needs Questionnaire. For each item on the risk assessment (part one), use the information available in Offendertrak and Caseload Explorer to determine the appropriate number of points to determine the total Risk Assessment score. This assessment should be completed as part of the intake process and scored accordingly.

1. To access the Risk Assessment and Criminogenic Needs Questionnaire, log in to Offendertrak, enter the offender's MDOC number then select Booking >>Booking Management.



- Then select Classification >> COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS>>Community Risk Assessment and Criminogenic Needs Questionnaire.



Risk Assessment – part 1

1. Age

Intent of item – This item is intended to measure the offender’s age at the time of supervision intake for the current sentence. If an offender has been on community supervision prior to this term, **do not** score based on the age at that term of supervision. Only calculate age based on the current supervision start date.

How to score item -

0 points = the offender is 27 years of age or older at the start of supervision

1 point = the offender is 26 years of age or younger at the start of supervision

Where to find scoring information – The risk assessment form has been automated to generate the

offender's age at intake based on the offender's age at the time of their current status of custody.

Offender Information

INMATE NAME [REDACTED] MDOC# [REDACTED] DATE: [REDACTED] AGE AT SUPERVISION START: 47

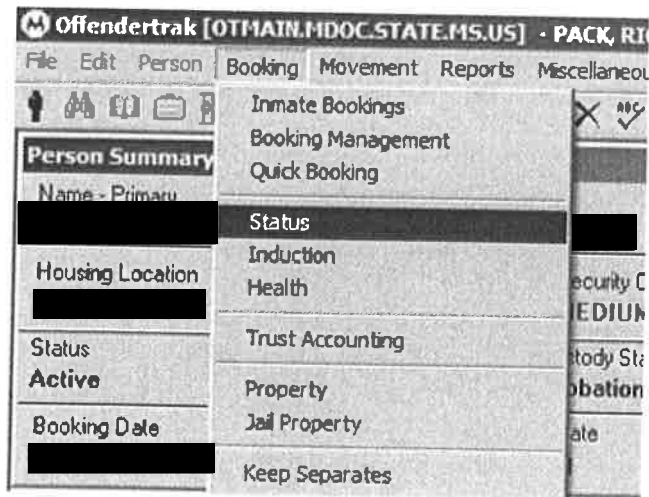
To verify the offender's age, please follow the steps described below.

1. Enter the offender's MDOC number into Offendertrak and review the "Person Summary" section.

On the "Person Summary" section you will see the offender's date of birth (DOB) as highlighted below. In the example below, the offender's date of birth is July 16, 1968.

Person Summary					
Name - Primary	DOB	Inmate ID	SSN	Sex	Race
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	MALE	BLACK
Housing Location	VNR	Security Class	Hearing Date	Court/Judge	
[REDACTED]	N	MEDIUM			
Status	Custody Status		Custody Status Reason		
Active	Probation		NEW PRISONER		
Booking Date	Booking #	Booking State	Sentence Start	Expected Release	Alerts (3)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Accepted	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

2. From the "Booking" menu, select "Status." This will bring up a small window called "status and identification."



- Click the “History” button under the “Custody Status” field to display the offender’s custody. In the example below, this offender’s latest custody status is “Probation” as of March 17, 2016. From the Person Summary section, we see that the offender’s date of birth was July 16, 1968. In this case the offender was roughly, 47 years and 9 months old at the time of his Probation. Therefore the score value would be 0 (27 years and older).

Start Date	Status	End Date
[Redacted]	Inmate	
[Redacted]	Probation	

2. Gang involvement

Intent of item – This item is intended to measure whether the offender has known gang involvement. “Known” involvement means that the offender has been identified by MDOC as having affiliation with a security threat group (STG) while in the facility; or identified by another law enforcement entity as a gang member; or displays gang affiliation through tattoos, clothing or other identified gang symbolism.

How to score item –

0 points = no known gang involvement

0 points = self-reported gang involvement (please see note below)

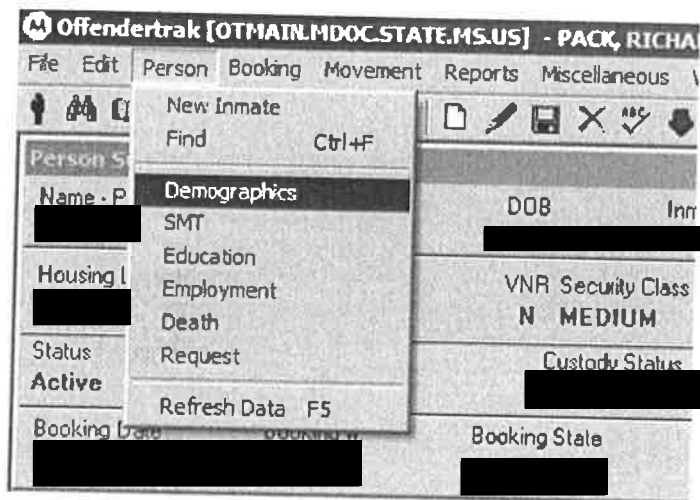
1 point = known/documented gang involvement

NOTE: The self-reported gang involvement item is being tracked for data collection purposes. When the MDOC Risk Assessment was developed, only the MDOC gang indicator data could be used to develop this risk factor for the tool, so self-reported data was not available in the development of the MDOC Risk Assessment. The self-reported gang involvement response to this question should only be marked provided that the only source of gang involvement is based on self-reported information. Should the MDOC data systems (Offendertrak, Caseload

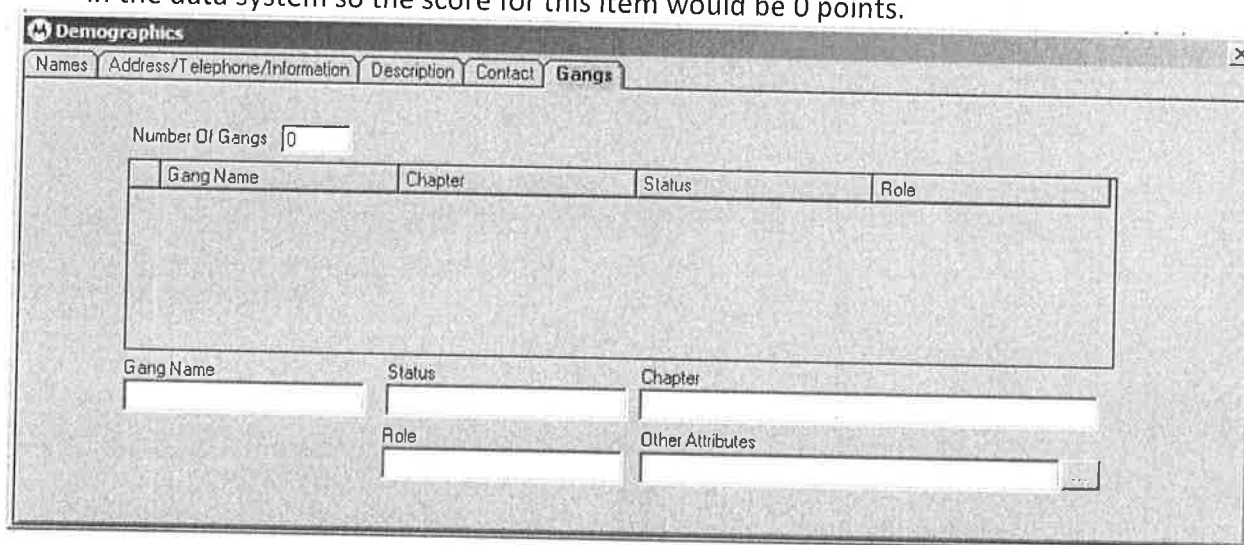
Explorer) indicate the offender has known/documented gang involvement, the item worth 1 point 'known/documented gang involvement' should be marked. If there is no known gang involvement, then please select 'no known gang involvement,' which is worth 0 points.

Where to find scoring information – Information on the offender’s gang affiliation can be found in Offendertrak under the “Person” menu as described in the steps below.

1. Select the “Person” Menu in Offendertrak, then select “Demographics” as shown highlighted below.



2. On the last tab on the Demographics page you will find the gang affiliation information for the inmate. In the example below, the offender did not have any gang affiliation recorded in the data system so the score for this item would be 0 points.



3. Total number of current felonies

Intent of item – This item is intended to measure the total number of felony convictions on the current case at the start of supervision. **Only** felony convictions for the current supervision

should be counted. If there are multiple counts of the same crime (e.g. two counts of felony burglary), this counts as two felonies. **Do not** count prior felony convictions from previous cases. **Do not** count felonies for the current case that did not result in a conviction.

How to score item – To score this item, add the total number of all felonies in the current conviction.

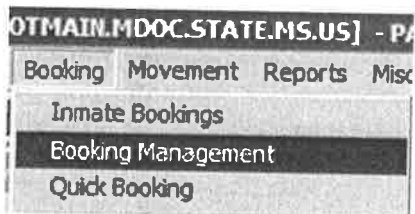
0 points = 1 felony at time of supervision start on current case

1 point = 2 felonies at time of supervision start on current case

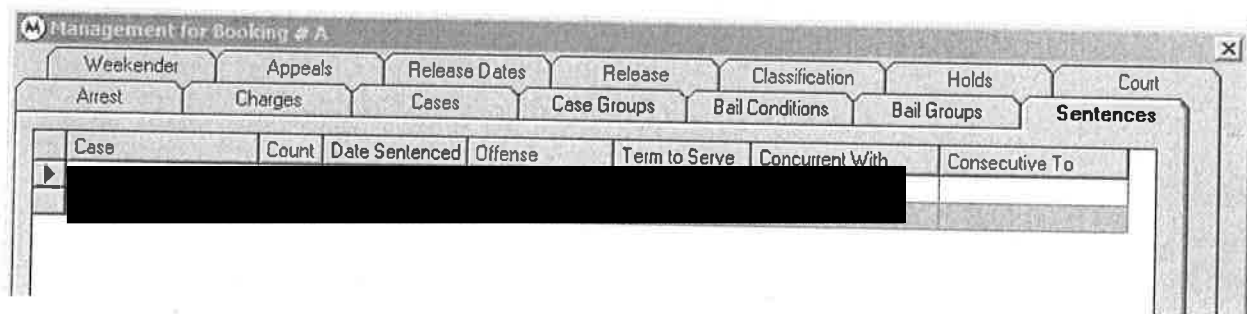
2 points = 3 or more felonies at time of supervision start on current case

Where to find scoring information - This information can be found in Offendertrak under the “Booking” menu as described in the steps below.

1. Select “Booking” and then “Booking Management”



2. On the Booking page, select the “Sentences” tab to locate the offender’s list of offenses. In the example below, the offender has 2 felony offenses so the score for this item is 1 point.



4. Number of prior incarcerations

Intent of item – This item is intended to measure the total number of prior incarcerations for the offender. Any prior sentence of incarceration that was served by the offender should count in this item. This includes prior incarcerations that were the result of a probation or parole violation or revocation. **Do count** prior incarcerations for the same original booking or original sentence when there is a parole or probation violation or revocation. For example, if an offender starts a period of incarceration for a sentence, is released on community supervision and then is revoked or is incarcerated for a supervision violation on that same original sentence

or original booking, then the original incarceration would now be counted as a prior incarceration for this booking for the supervision violation or revocation. The number of prior incarcerations is to be taken only from the MDOC data systems (Offendertrak and Caseload Explorer). **Do not** count self-reported incarcerations. If the offender has both prior incarcerations in MDOC and other jurisdictions, only count and score the MDOC prior incarcerations. For example, if the offender has one prior incarceration from another jurisdiction (outside MDOC) and one prior incarceration from MDOC, the correct response is '1 point = 1 prior incarceration.'

How to score item – To score this item, add the total number of all prior incarcerations.

0 points = 0 prior incarceration

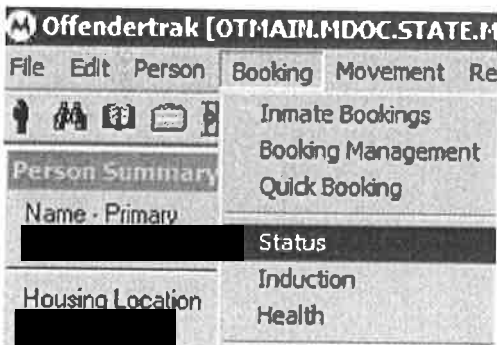
0 points = prior incarcerations from other jurisdictions (please see note below)

1 points = 1 prior incarceration

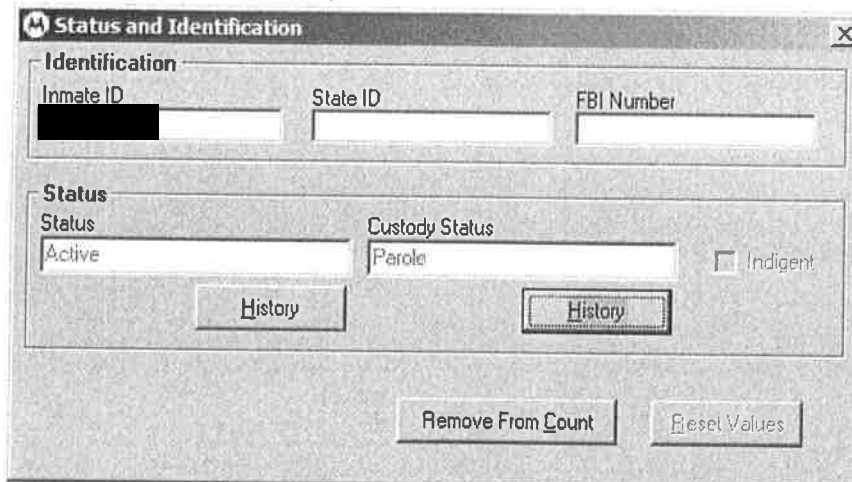
2 points = 2+ prior incarcerations

Where to find scoring information –

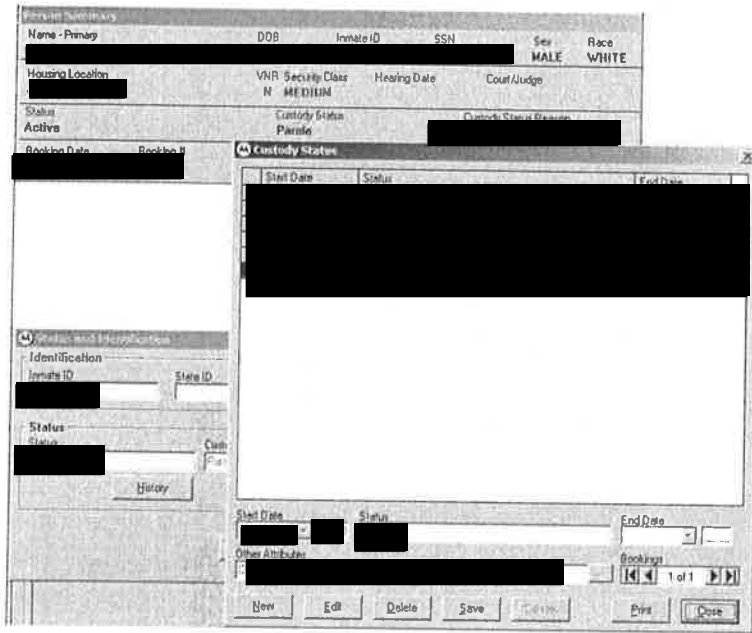
1. From the “Booking” menu, select “Status.” This will bring up a small window called “Status and Identification.”



2. Click the “History” button under the “Custody Status” field to display the offender’s custody status history



- Count the number of Custody Status entries that are designated as "Inmate" or "RID" on the most recent booking. Then scroll to previous bookings by selecting the left arrow, which scrolls back one booking at a time.
- Count the number of Custody Status entries that are designated as "Inmate" or "RID" on each prior booking. In the example below for Offender #197628, this offender has **2** prior MDOC incarcerations.



NOTE: The prior incarcerations from other jurisdictions response is **not** being recorded as these data were not available in the development of the tool. Only MDOC incarceration data was available for this risk factor in the tool's development. **Only** respond to '0 points = prior incarcerations from other jurisdiction' if the offender does not have any MDOC incarcerations but does have out of state, self-report, or inter-state compact prior incarcerations.

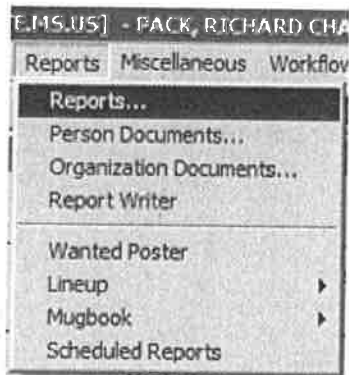
5. Institutional violations

Intent of item – This item is intended to measure the number of institutional violations in the offender's history. This includes violations that occurred in a jail and are captured in the MDOC data systems (Offendertrak and Caseload Explorer). Only those violations that were documented should be counted in this item. All institutional violations are counted for this item regardless of severity.

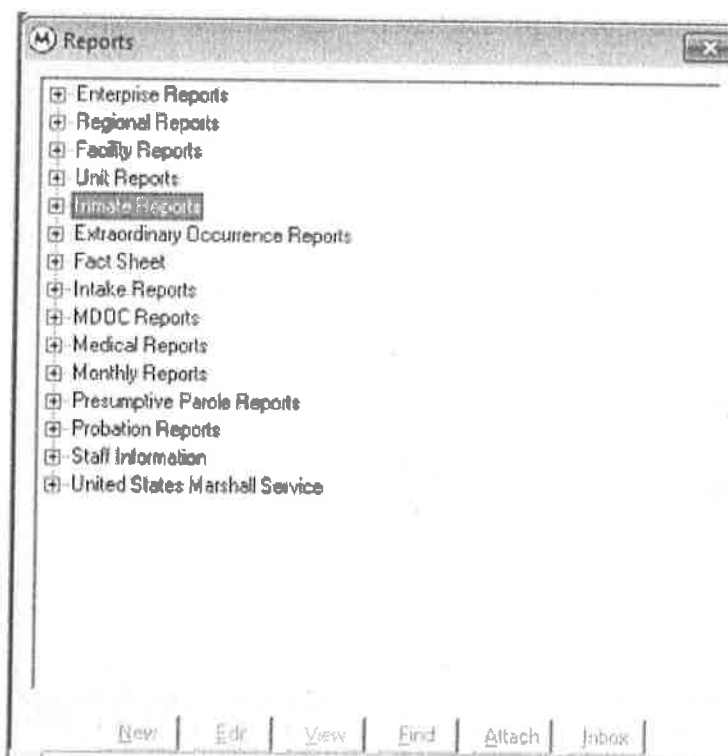
How to score item – To score this item, add the total number of all institutional violations in the offender's history. This includes all major, serious, and institutional violations.
 0 points = no institutional violations
 1 point = at least 1 institutional violation

Where to find scoring information - This information can be found in Offendertrak under "Incident Report" as described in the steps below.

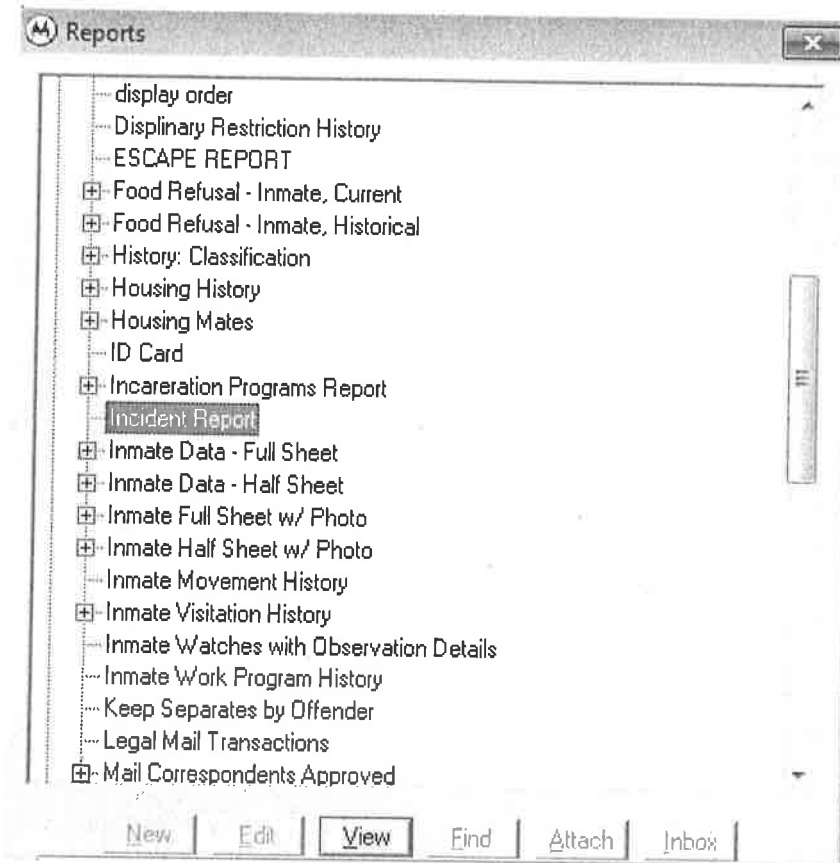
1. From the Offendertrak menu, select "Reports" and then "Reports" as shown below.



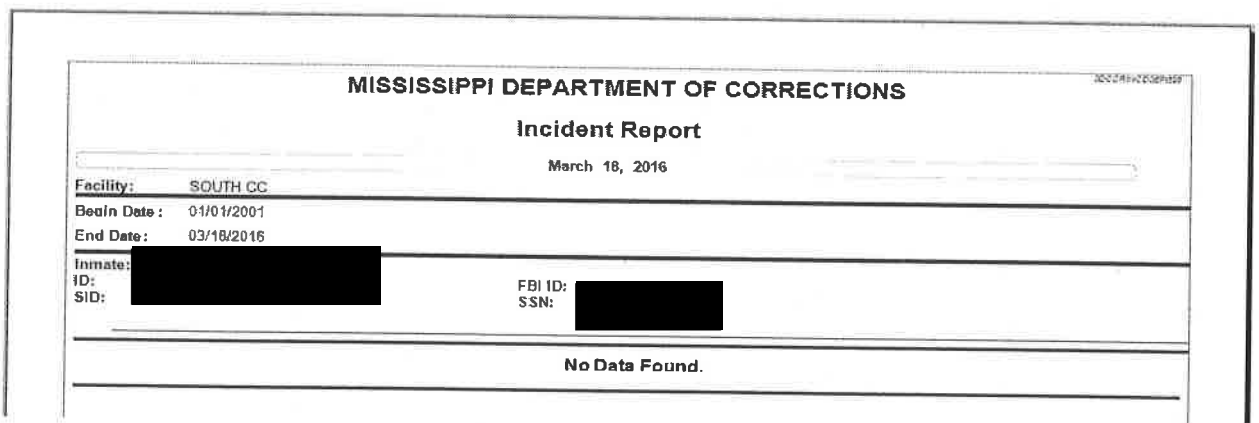
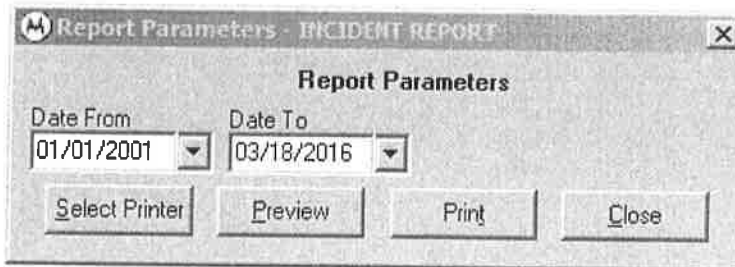
2. Next, select "Inmate Reports" by clicking the plus (+) symbol.



3. From there, scroll down to "Incident Report" and finally, click the "View" button.



4. After you click view, enter a date range in the box below and select "Preview" to display the report. In the example below, inmate #199907 has no reported institutional violations.



Mississippi Department of Corrections

Needs - Questionnaire

Scoring Guide

Purpose

The purpose of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Criminogenic Needs Questionnaire (Needs - Q) is to collect the necessary data to identify an offender's criminogenic needs. The Needs - Q is to be used along with the MDOC risk assessment tool in both the community and facility settings. Ultimately, the Needs - Q information, along with the risk assessment information, will be used to develop a specific risk and needs assessment instrument for the MDOC for use in developing the Parole Case Plan, making programmatic decisions and referrals for offenders, as well as guiding supervision and case management in the field.

At present, both the risk factors identified through the risk assessment instrument and the criminogenic needs identified in the Needs - Q should be targeted within the case plan. The questions on the MDOC risk assessment and the Needs - Q are intended to collect information on the primary risk factors and criminogenic needs that research has repeatedly shown to be predictive of future offending behavior. Following the data collection phase, the Needs - Q information will be analyzed, along with a variety of other data already collected by the MDOC, to develop and then subsequently validate a risk and needs assessment instrument that identifies the risk to recidivate and the primary targets for intervention for offenders within Mississippi. Completing the Needs - Q and scoring the MDOC risk assessment with fidelity are critical steps towards developing an appropriate and predictive risk and needs assessment tool that will allow the MDOC to successfully move forward in becoming a risk-based system.

Following an overview of the purpose of each of the Needs - Q sections, directions on how to properly score each item will be provided. The tool should be scored based on information provided by the offender in a directed interview conducted by MDOC staff. The Needs - Q Interview Guide will provide more specific questions that will be helpful in scoring the items on the assessment. Staff should

analyze the information provided by the offender in the interview and determine whether it fits the criteria for each of the Needs - Q questions.

Needs – Q Scoring Criteria

The following sections provide specific criteria for scoring each of the items on the Needs - Q assessment. Using the Needs - Q Interview Guide, staff should interview the offender with the purpose of answering each of the Yes/No questions. In terms of scoring, if an item is marked as 'Yes', this indicates that the factor being measured IS a need factor for the individual. The items that are marked as risk factors should be targeted for change in case planning, as they represent the offender having a criminogenic need in that area. Conversely, if an item is marked 'No,' that means this is not an issue for the offender and should not be targeted in case planning. Prior to scoring the assessment, staff should review OffenderTrak and Caseload Explorer for information regarding the offender's personal history and criminal record. If it is available, staff should also review the offender's presentence investigation report for corroborating information. When scoring the Needs - Q assessment, compare the information provided by the offender to the scoring criteria listed below and mark items as 'Yes' or 'No' accordingly. Some items will be scored based primarily on the offender's self-report, while others will rely on the judgement of the assessor to evaluate the offender's answers and score the items based on the scoring criteria provided.

Employment/Education Purpose & Overview

The employment and education section contains seven items. The purpose of this section is to identify whether the offender has criminogenic needs associated with employment or education so that goals can be written into the case plan to target this criminogenic need area. Often, offenders will have conditions of supervision that require them to get a job, to complete their high school degree, or to earn a GED; however, when the offender has needs that are revealed in the employment/education section, this indicates that the offender has difficulty getting and keeping a job or staying involved long enough in school to finish. Earning a high school education or GED and being employed are stabilizing factors in a person's life; when employment and/or education is identified as a criminogenic need, goals and action steps should focus on identifying and overcoming individual obstacles to getting the job or finishing school, and then

future goals and action steps should be set for the purpose of maintaining that job.

1. Are you currently unemployed or were you unemployed prior to incarceration?

- For this item, 'currently' means in the present. When asking this question at the beginning of a supervision term, this item should be marked 'Yes' if the offender was unemployed at the beginning of his or her supervision. When the offender is being asked this question at intake into an MDOC facility, 'currently' means immediately prior to this incarceration.
- If the offender is capable of work, then the response is 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she is not currently employed.
- If the offender is retired and the retirement funds are sufficient for the offender to be financially stable (which requires the offender stating that he or she is retired and is financially stable) then the response to this question is 'No.'
- If the offender is retired and the retirement funds are not sufficient for the offender to be financially stable (which requires the offender stating that he or she is retired but is not financially stable) then the response to this question is 'Yes.'
- If the offender has a disability and collects SSI or disability funding, then mark 'No' to this question.
- If the offender has a disability but does not collect SSI or disability funding, then mark 'Yes' to this question.

2. Have you ever been fired from a job?

- If the offender has ever been fired from a job, this question should be marked 'Yes.' This includes jobs that were held as a juvenile and jobs that were paid 'under the table.' If the offender reports that he or she quit a job because he or she was going to get fired, this item should be marked 'Yes.'

3. Have most of your jobs been for less than a year?

- Score this item as 'Yes' if the majority of the offender's jobs have lasted less than one year. If most of the offender's jobs have lasted more than one year, this item should be scored as 'No.' 'Most' means more than half of the jobs the offender reports having. If the offender says that he or she has never held a job for more than a year, this should be scored 'Yes.'

4. *Were you unable to graduate from high school or earn a GED?*

- Score this item 'Yes' when the offender reports that he or she **does not** have a high school diploma or GED. This item should be scored 'No' if the offender has a diploma or GED, regardless of when or where this was earned (e.g., alternative school, jail).

5. *Were you ever suspended or expelled from school?*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she has ever been suspended or expelled from any school setting. This includes suspensions or expulsions from elementary school, junior high/middle school, and high school. Suspensions or expulsions from alternative schools should also be marked as 'Yes.'

6. *Have you typically had poor relationships with job supervisors, fellow workers, teachers, and/or fellow students?*

- This items should be scored as 'Yes' if the offender reports having bad relationships in school or work settings. Indicators can include frequent verbal confrontations or fights, isolation from peers at work or school, or reports that the offender is not liked at school or work. If the offender reports only one or two isolated incidents with a co-worker, supervisor, peer, or teacher that the offender did not get along with, this question should be scored 'No.' Score this item 'Yes' if negative relationships at school and work are a common part of the offender's experience in these areas. If the offender classifies himself or herself as a 'loner' or indicates that he or she separates from co-workers/school peers, or that he or she is or was unpopular at work/school, this item should be scored 'Yes.'

7. *Would your most recent job supervisor or most recent teacher say your work performance was poor or you had difficulty getting along with others?*

- To score this item, the offender should be asked about his or her most recent supervisor, if the offender was employed just before supervision/intake, or the most recent teacher, if the offender was in school just before supervision/intake. 'Recent' could also mean current if the offender was employed or attending school just before supervision/intake. This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender reports that the person in this role would assess his or her performance as poor. This item is based on the **self-reported** opinion of the offender in terms of what his or her most recent supervisor or teacher would say.

Substance Abuse Purpose & Overview

The substance abuse section contains eight items. The purpose of this section is to identify whether the offender has criminogenic needs associated with substance abuse so that goals can be written into the case plan to target this criminogenic need area. Often, offenders will be required to participate in substance abuse programming or treatment and/or the offender is required to comply with drug and alcohol screening as conditions of supervision or as part of his or her incarceration. When offenders have needs in the substance abuse section, this indicates that they may benefit from programming and services related to substance abuse. This section is designed to assess needs based on the offender's actual drug and alcohol use, not just being involved in drug related crimes (e.g. trafficking). If the offender sells drugs but does not use or abuse drugs, he or she will likely have few 'Yes' answers in this area. While selling drugs is a problem, it is not a problem that would be addressed through substance abuse treatment (which is what a high score in this area would indicate).

When substance abuse is identified as a criminogenic need, goals and action steps should focus on identifying how substance abuse has impacted the offender's life and what reasonable steps can be taken by the offender to begin to address his or her substance abuse needs. Keep in mind, some offenders may have a serious and long term addiction to drugs and/or alcohol, some may have just had more short term involvement and have entered the criminal justice system with convictions associated with drugs and/or alcohol, and some may not be willing to seek help or

support to address his or her substance abuse needs. Because many offenders with substance abuse problems fail to recognize or deny the problem, scoring some of the items in this section will require the assessor to match the information provided by the offender with the objective scoring criteria provided below. In general, an assessment of a drug or alcohol problem is not solely based on the offender's admission of a problem (although that may be one indicator).

1. *Do you have a history of alcohol abuse or problems with alcohol?*

- When scoring this item, 'history' refers to a time in the offender's past where he or she has had problems with alcohol. As a frame of reference, 'history' should be considered any time more than **one year** from the time of the assessment. History includes adolescence.
- This item should be scored 'Yes' if there are indicators in official documentation (e.g., OffenderTrak, Caseload Explorer, presentence investigation report) that the offender has a history of alcohol problems AND/OR if the offender reports having a history of alcohol problems. Indicators may include a documented diagnosis of alcoholism, health problems related to alcohol use, prior treatment for alcohol abuse (not counting Alcoholics Anonymous – AA), prior charges related to alcohol use (e.g., DUI), problems in other areas of the offender's life (e.g., work/school, relationships) related to alcohol use. Scoring this item as 'Yes' DOES NOT require an admission by the offender of an alcohol problem. Scoring this item requires the assessor to look for indicators of alcohol abuse beyond self-report. If the offender reports problems in multiple areas of his or her life related to alcohol use, this item should be scored 'Yes.' Occasional alcohol use or social drinking that is not related to problems in the offender's life should be scored 'No.'

2. *Do you have a history of drug abuse or problems with drugs?*

- When scoring this item, 'history' refers to a time in the offender's past where he has had problems with drugs. As a frame of reference, 'history' should be considered any time more than **one year** from the time of the assessment. History includes adolescence.

- When scoring this item, 'drugs' refers to the abuse of any illegal psychoactive substance. This also refers to the misuse of prescription drugs. Scoring of this item does not include alcohol or tobacco.
- This item should be scored 'Yes' if there are indicators in official documentation (e.g., OffenderTrak, Caseload Explorer, presentence investigation report) that the offender has a history of drug problems AND/OR if the offender reports having a history of drug problems. Indicators may include a documented diagnosis of drug addiction, health problems related to drug use, prior treatment for drug abuse (not counting Narcotics Anonymous – NA or AA), prior charges related to drug use (drug trafficking should not be counted here), problems in other areas of the offender's life (e.g., work/school, relationships) related to drug use. Scoring this item as 'Yes' DOES NOT require an admission by the offender of a drug problem. Scoring this item requires the assessor to look for indicators of drug abuse beyond self-report. If the offender reports problems in multiple areas of his or her life related to drug use, this item should be scored 'Yes.' One-time experimentation with drugs should be scored 'No.' If the offender reports that he or she has used more frequently than experimentation, but there is no evidence that his or her use caused a problem in his or her life, this should be scored 'No.'

3. *Do you have family or friends who currently have problems with drugs or alcohol?*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she has family and/or friends that have problems with drugs or alcohol. 'Family' and 'friends' should include people that the offender sees and spends time with on a regular basis. 'Problems' may include legal problems (e.g., arrest, incarceration), medical issues, trouble with work or school, or trouble with relationships related to the use of drugs or alcohol; 'problems' may also include concern expressed by others around that person's drug and/or alcohol use. This item should be based on the offender's **self-report** of drug or alcohol problems among his or her family and friends. 'Currently' having a drug or alcohol problem refers to the last 12 months.

4. *Have drugs or alcohol caused problems with your job or school?*

- This question should be scored with respect to the offender's current drug and alcohol use. To score this item, refer to the offender's use of drugs and alcohol within the past 12 months.
- Score this item 'Yes' if there are indicators that the offender has problems with school or work based on the offender's substance use AND/OR if the offender reports problems in this area related to his or her use. 'Problems' may include showing up to work/school late, missing work/school because the offender is hungover or still intoxicated, showing up to work or school intoxicated, problems with co-workers/teachers/supervisors because of drug or alcohol use, being fired or disciplined at work, or being suspended or expelled from school because of substance use. If these problems occurred prior to the past 12 months and do not currently occur because the person is not using, this item should be scored 'No.' Scoring this item requires the assessor to look for indicators of problems in this area related to drug or alcohol use beyond the offender's self-report. The offender may not believe that he or she has problems in these areas related to substance abuse, but if indicators of problems are present, this item should be scored 'Yes.'

5. *Have drugs or alcohol caused problems with any current relationships?*

- This question should be scored with respect to the offender's current drug and alcohol use. To score this item, refer to the offender's use of drugs and alcohol within the past 12 months.
- Score this item 'Yes' if there are indicators that the offender's use of drugs or alcohol has caused problems in relationships with family or friends AND/OR if the offender reports problems in this area based on his or her use. Indicators may include family refusing to be involved with the offender because of his or her use, family or friends severing contact because of the offender's use, or strained relationships. If the offender reports that there have been problems in some relationships (but not others) that are related to the offender's use, and the offender is bothered by those problems, score this item as 'Yes.' If there were problems with family or friends because of the offender's use and those problems have since been

resolved, score this item 'No.' Scoring this item requires the assessor to look for indicators of problems in this area related to drug or alcohol use beyond the offender's self-report. The offender may not believe that he or she has problems in these areas related to substance abuse, but if indicators of problems are present, this item should be scored 'Yes.'

6. *Have you ever been in trouble with the law for drug or alcohol use?*

- For this item, score based on the offender's entire history, including adolescence. This item includes trouble with the adult as well as the juvenile justice system.
- Score this item 'Yes' if there are official indicators (e.g., in OffenderTrak or Caseload Explorer) that the offender has ever been in trouble with the law for drugs or alcohol AND/OR if the offender reports that he or she been in trouble with the law based on use of these substances. 'Trouble with the law' includes being arrested (with or without conviction) for drug or alcohol related crimes, serving a community supervision sentence related to use, or being incarcerated in jail or prison as a result of drug and/or alcohol use.
- If the offender was arrested and was under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at the time of the arrest, this item should be scored 'Yes.'
- If the offender only has charges related to drug trafficking or possession and does not use drugs, this item should be marked 'No.' This item relates to legal problems associated with the offender's actual drug or alcohol use.

7. *Have you ever participated in treatment for drugs or alcohol?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if there is evidence that the offender participated in treatment for drug or alcohol use AND/OR if the offender reports participating in such treatment. Participation in treatment should be counted as 'Yes' whether court-ordered or voluntary. This item should be scored 'Yes' for both successful and unsuccessful completion of treatment. If the offender was enrolled in a treatment program and dropped out or was asked to leave, this item should be scored 'Yes.' Participation in drug and/or alcohol

treatment as a juvenile should also be scored 'Yes.' Participation in either inpatient or outpatient treatment should be scored 'Yes.' Treatment also includes participating in any groups or one-on-one counseling for substance abuse. This item should be scored 'No' if the only treatment for drugs or alcohol that has been participated in AA or NA.

8. *Do you believe drugs or alcohol are a current problem?*

- This item should be scored based on the offender's **self-report** of his or her drug and alcohol use in the past 12 months. Score this item 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she thinks he or she has a problem with drugs and/or alcohol at the present time. If the offender reports that he or she 'used to have a problem' but indicates no problem in the present, this item should be scored 'No.' Even if there are other indicators of a drug or alcohol problem (e.g., items 3 through 7 have been scored Yes), if the offender self-reports that he or she does not believe he or she has a problem, this item should be scored 'No.'

Attitudes Purpose & Overview

The attitudes section contains six items. The purpose of this section is to identify whether the offender has antisocial attitudes. Often, offenders will indicate or express antisocial attitudes by justifying their offending, minimizing their responsibility or the harm their behavior has caused, or expressing that the system treated them unfairly. The offender may also suggest that most people are involved in criminal activity, so there is no need to 'make a big deal' out of his offending behavior.

When antisocial attitudes are identified as a criminogenic need, the case plan goals and action steps should focus on identifying what thoughts and attitudes the offender uses to justify his offending behavior. Goals can also address teaching and practicing new prosocial attitudes, behaviors, and skills so that the offender can have an alternative response to situations that previously have gotten him into trouble.

1. *Do you believe that most people get in trouble with the law?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender self-reports that he or she believes that the majority of people get in trouble with the law. He or

she may indicate that 'everyone breaks the law,' or state something similar.

2. *Do you believe that your trouble with the law is due to bad luck or misunderstanding?*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if there are indicators that the offender does not take responsibility for his or her actions and seems to blame others. The offender may cite 'bad luck for getting caught' as the reason for his or her current involvement with the criminal justice system or say that the offender's current trouble was a misunderstanding by police, the victim, or the courts. If the offender makes statements that reflect he or she has taken responsibility for the criminal behavior, this item should be scored 'No.'

3. *Do you believe the police and court treated you unfairly?*

- For this item, assess whether the offender self-reports that he or she feels he or she was treated unfairly during interactions with the police and the courts. The offender may express sentiments such as 'the police are out to get me' or 'the system is rigged.' In these and similar cases, this item should be scored 'Yes.' If the offender reports that he or she was treated unfairly by one person in the processing of the case, but not by the system as a whole, this item should be scored 'No.' If the offender indicates that he or she was treated fairly through the criminal justice process, this item should be scored 'No.'

4. *Do you believe the sentence on the current case was unfair?*

- This item measures the offender's self-reported opinion of his or her sentence in the present case. If the offender indicates that he or she believes the current sentence was unfairly harsh, mark this item as 'Yes.' This item specifically measures the offender's feelings toward the sentence in the case (not the handling by police or courts). Score this item 'No' if the offender indicates that the sentence in the current case was fair.

5. *Did the police or court make a bigger deal out of your case than necessary?*

- This item measures the extent to which the offender agrees with the laws and consequences pertaining to his or her criminal behavior. If the offender indicates that the police should be spending time on other types of crime, says that the offender's behavior was 'no big deal,' or otherwise minimizes the seriousness of the offender's offense or the harm it may have caused, this item should be marked 'Yes.' Score this item 'No' if the offender indicates that the handling of his or her crime was consistent with the level of seriousness of the behavior.

6. *Should the law focus more time on other crimes instead of the crime you were convicted of?*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she believes the law incorrectly focused on his or her crime. The offender may indicate that the current crime 'isn't that serious.' In that case, this item should be marked 'Yes.' If question #5 above is scored yes, it is important to distinguish if the offender also expects that law enforcement and the courts should focus on other crimes.

Relationships Purpose & Overview

The relationships section contains nine items. The purpose of this section is to identify whether the offender has relationships with antisocial peers and others. The presence of antisocial peers (and the lack of prosocial others) is a strong predictor of recidivism. The criminogenic need, 'antisocial peers,' is basically assessed in two ways. First, the Needs - Q measures whether or not the offender has strong relationships with others who also engage in or support offending behavior. Second, the assessment measures whether or not the offender has strong relationships with individuals who are prosocial and would be supportive of the offender adopting a prosocial lifestyle. If the offender does not have prosocial and supportive family and friends, and primarily has antisocial peers in his or her life, the offender will be at greater risk to recidivate.

When antisocial peers or relationships are identified as a criminogenic need, the case plan goals and action steps should focus on identifying the characteristics of others who are prosocial, perhaps setting action steps around participating in prosocial activities, developing coping skills to avoid antisocial peers, and practicing communication skills to develop and maintain prosocial relationships.

To score the items in this section, use the following definitions:

'Family members' - Individuals with whom the offender has a legal or a biological relationship. 'Family members' may include spouses, parents, step parents, siblings, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

'Close friends' - Individuals with whom the offender does not have a legal or biological relationship, but who the offender reports are close to them. 'Close friends' may include significant others (current and former) and other non-family members that the offender considers close and with whom the offender spends a significant amount of time.

'Associates' - Individuals with whom the offender does not have a legal or biological relationship and whom the offender does not identify as a close friend, but with whom the offender may engage with occasionally. 'Associates' may include neighbors or coworkers, or others that the offender socializes with occasionally.

'Trouble with the law' – This does not require convictions or incarcerations. 'Trouble with the law' can mean being arrested, detained in jail, picked up by the police, having court dates, etc. If the offender is young or has young siblings or young friends, 'trouble with the law' may include involvement in the juvenile justice system.

1. *Do you have family members who have been in trouble with the law?*
 - This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she has family members who have ever been arrested, convicted, on community supervision, and/or incarcerated.
 - To score this item, refer to the definitions for 'family members' and 'trouble with the law.'
 - If the family members who have been in trouble with the law are estranged and the offender has no contact with them, this item should be marked 'No.'

2. *Do you have at least one close friend who has been in trouble with the law?*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she has at least one close friend who has ever been arrested, convicted, placed on community supervision, or incarcerated.
- To score this item, refer to the definitions for 'close friends' and 'trouble with the law.'

3. *Have you participated in activities with family or friends that could get you in trouble with the law?*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she has engaged in criminal behavior with individuals that fall in the 'family' or 'close friends' category. This behavior does not have to result in criminal charges, but if it could have resulted in charges, this item should be scored 'Yes.' This includes illicit drug use. If all of the offender's close friends and family members are law-abiding, this item should be scored 'No.'
- To score this item, refer to the definitions for 'family members,' 'close friends,' and 'trouble with the law.'

4. *Have family members ever been upset with you for being in trouble with the law?*

- For this item to be scored 'Yes,' there should be indicators that the offender's trouble with the law has had a negative effect on his or her relationships with family members. Indicators of problems with family members may include self-reported strained or distant relationships, family members who have ended their relationships with the offender, reduced time spent with the offender, and/or family members keeping minor family members away from the offender. Indicators may also include family members expressing their displeasure with the offender's behavior directly to the offender. If the offender reports that he or she has close, positive relationships with family members and that the family members support the offender, this item should be scored 'No'.
- To score this item, refer to the definitions of 'family members' and 'trouble with the law.'

5. *Have close friends ever been upset with you for being in trouble with the law?*

- For this item to be scored 'Yes,' there should be indicators that the offender's trouble with the law has had a negative impact on his or her relationships with close friends. Indicators or problems with close friends may include friends spending less time with or severing ties with the offender. Indicators may also include close friends expressing their displeasure with the offender's behavior directly to him or her. If the offender reports that he or she has strong positive relationships with his or her close friends and that the friends are supportive of the offender, this item should be marked 'No.'
- To score this item, refer to the definitions of 'close friends' and 'trouble with the law.'

6. *Have the majority of your friends or associates been in trouble with the law?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the majority (more than half) of the offender's close friends and/or associates have ever been arrested, convicted, placed on community supervision, and/or incarcerated.
- For the purpose of scoring this item, if the offender has only one 'close friend,' that individual counts as the majority of the offender's friends and associates. If the offender reports that he or she has only one close friend (and no real associates by his or her own self-report), and the close friend is engaging in offending behavior or is in trouble with the law, this item should be scored 'Yes.'
- To score this item, refer to the definitions of 'close friends,' 'associates,' and 'trouble with the law.'

7. *Do your family members who have not been in trouble with the law avoid seeing you or talking with you.*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender reports that any of his or her family members who have not been in trouble with the law have reduced the amount of time they spend with the offender or avoid the offender. If the offender reports that he or she regularly sees his law-abiding family members, this item should be scored 'No.'

- To score this item, refer to the definitions of 'family members' and 'trouble with the law.'

8. *Is it hard to have a close relationship with family or friends who have not been in trouble with the law?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports difficulty in maintaining relationships with family members and friends who have not been in trouble with the law. Indicators may include the offender's self-reported difficulty in maintaining these relationships, or lack of involvement with family and friends who have not been in trouble with the law. If the offender reports that he or she maintains close relationships with family and friends who have not been in trouble with the law, this item should be scored 'No.'
- To score this item, refer to the definitions of 'family members,' 'close friends,' and 'trouble with the law.'

9. *Do you spend the majority of your free time with others who have been in trouble with the law?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports that he spends most of his or her free time with individuals who have been in trouble with the law. This may include family members, close friends, and/or associates who have ever been arrested, convicted, placed on community supervision, and/or incarcerated.
- For the purpose of scoring this item, 'free time' is considered the time that the offender spends outside of structured prosocial activities that occur regularly. For example, work and school are structured prosocial activities; what the offender does outside of work and school would be considered free time. If the offender is unemployed, assess how he or she spends the majority of his or her time throughout the day and evening. 'Free time' for individuals who are retired or have a disability would still be time spent that is outside regular and routine structured prosocial activities. Individuals who are retired or have a disability may have more free time than other offenders.
- To score this item, refer to the definitions of 'family members,' 'close friends,' 'associates,' and 'trouble with the law.'

Personality Purpose & Overview

The personality section contains eleven items. The purpose of this section is to identify whether the offender has antisocial personality characteristics. This criminogenic need, along with antisocial attitudes and antisocial peers, make up the three dynamic risk factors associated with the Big Four (history of antisocial behavior is the fourth, and is a static risk factor). When scoring this section, look for patterns in the offender's behavior rather than isolated incidents. Scoring this section will require the assessor to synthesize information from the other portions of the Needs - Q interview to evaluate the offender's personality based on the dimensions represented in the assessment. Scoring of these items will be based on the offender's self-report to related questions and the scoring criteria listed below.

When antisocial personality is identified as a criminogenic need, the case plan goals and action steps should focus on addressing impulsive decision-making while helping the offender develop: (1) coping and problem-solving skills, (2) skills that will allow the offender to respond to conflict or stressful situations in a calm and prosocial (rather than aggressive) manner, and (3) to recognize the impact of his behavior on others. Some offenders may also need to examine the various situations or people that prompt their risky decision-making. It is important to recognize that the offender will likely need multiple opportunities to practice any new skills that are introduced, so that the new skills, or new behaviors, can be reinforced and hopefully sustained.

1. *Do you often do things without thinking?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she often acts quickly or impulsively. Indicators may include the offender reporting that he or she loses patience easily, tends to respond very quickly in most situations, or is otherwise impulsive in his or her responses to many situations. If the offender reports acting impulsively or responding quickly on a one-time or infrequent basis, this item should be scored 'No.'

2. *Do you react immediately to situations that are stressful?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she tends to respond to stressful situations very quickly or without thinking. For this item to be scored 'Yes,' the offender should indicate that he or

she does not take the time to think in stressful situations, or tends to jump to the first solution he or she can think of to alleviate the stress. Using drugs or alcohol immediately to alleviate stress can also be an indicator here. Look for patterns in the offender's behavior and score this item based on how he or she deals with stress overall. If the offender reports that he or she likes to weigh many options before deciding how to deal with stress, or relates that he or she has many prosocial coping strategies to deal with stress, this item should be marked 'No.'

3. *Is it hard to pay attention?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she has difficulty attending to a single task, has a hard time completing tasks that require a lot of attention, or does not perform well in situations requiring attention to detail over an extended period of time. Indicators may include the offender struggling to focus on the Needs - Q interview, reports from the offender of attention problems at work or school, or a current diagnosis of attention deficit or hyperactivity disorder. If the offender is being medicated for this disorder, and is taking his or her medication as prescribed, score this item based on his or her behavior *when medicated*. If the offender has a prescription for this condition and is not taking it properly, score his or her overall behavior.

4. *Do you try new things because 'you only live once?'*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender indicates a willingness to try a variety of behaviors, regardless of risk, out of a need to have various experiences. Offenders may use the phrase 'YOLO' or 'you only live once' to describe how he or she approaches life. Alternately, the offender may say things like 'you are only young once' or say that the offender is 'just living life to the fullest.' These phrases would indicate that an answer of 'Yes' should be marked for this question. If the offender indicates that he or she makes decisions with a degree of caution and/or recognizes that some choices may be detrimental and therefore not worth pursuing, score this item 'No.' Look for patterns in the offender's thinking and behavior that reflect this philosophy.

5. *Do you feel that sometimes you are not in control?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she does not feel in control of the circumstances of his or her life. Indicators may include statements such as 'that's the way it is,' 'it wasn't my fault,' or other statements that indicate a lack of control. If the offender makes statements that suggest that he or she accepts responsibility for his or her behavior or recognizes that the consequences the offender is experiencing are a result of his or her behavior, this item should be scored 'No.'

6. *Do you respond to many situations in an angry manner?*

- This item assesses the extent to which the offender responds to situations with anger. Indicators may include the offender reporting that he or she has a 'bad temper' or 'short fuse.' Indicators may also include reports that the offender engages in many verbal or physical altercations, especially if he or she is the instigator in these situations. Indicators may also include official reports of violence or violence related charges, although that does not warrant an automatic score of 'Yes.' To score this item 'Yes,' look for angry responses as a pattern of behavior for this individual. If the offender reports that he or she rarely gets angry, this item should be scored 'No.'

7. *Is it hard to be calm when you are stressed or upset?*

- This item assesses the extent to which the offender is able to remain calm in stressful situations. Unlike the previous question, this item assesses responses to stress and elevated emotional states, rather than anger. If the offender reports that he or she does not deal well with stress, has a hard time remaining calm, or gets upset frequently or easily, score this item 'Yes.' If the offender reports being able to calmly handle most stressful situations, this item should be scored 'No.' Look for patterns in coping skills, not an occasional or one time negative response to stressful or emotional situations.

8. *Do you enjoy taking risks?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if, as a pattern of behavior, the offender reports enjoying risky activities or participates in risky activities frequently. While risky behavior can include criminal behavior, a criminal record alone does not warrant scoring this item 'Yes.' Look for indicators that the offender enjoys engaging in behavior that is risky physically, emotionally, financially (e.g., gambling), or otherwise carries a high potential for harm to the offender. If the offender reports only an occasional risky behavior, this item should be marked 'No.'

9. *Do people close to you know how to make you angry or intentionally push your buttons?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she is angered easily and quickly and/or reports feeling targeted or antagonized into anger frequently or easily, particularly by people who know him or her. If the offender reports those close to him or her know how to 'push my buttons' and that the offender responds with anger, this item should be scored 'Yes.' If the offender reports rarely responding to antagonism with anger, this item should be scored 'No.'

10. *Do some individuals just ask for trouble or problems?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she thinks that people who are victimized (either by the offender or others) share some responsibility for their victimization. Indicators may include the offender saying that a person was 'asking for it' or that the victim 'deserved what they got' in terms of victimization. This can include personal as well as property victimization. Assess this item on the offender's overall view of victimization, not just isolated incidents. If the offender expresses empathy for victims in general, score this item 'No.'

11. *Do you find it easier to give up or ignore a problem rather than deal with it?*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender indicates that one of his or her primary coping skills for difficult situations is to give up or deny that a problem exists. If the offender reports that he or she

avoids dealing with difficult situations (e.g., bills that the offender cannot afford to pay, problems with people in the offender's life, deadlines at work), this item should be scored 'Yes.' Assess this question on how the offender deals with problems across all areas of his or her life. If walking away from or ignoring problems is typical for this person, score this item 'Yes.' If the offender reports that he or she would rather deal with problems when the problem comes up and this behavior seems consistent, this item should be scored 'No.'

Completing the Needs - Q

Once you finish each section of the Needs - Q, review the information to ensure that each question was marked 'Yes' or 'No'. OffenderTrak should have added up the total number of 'Yes' responses and generated a sum for each criminogenic needs section and the total number of 'Yes' responses overall. Using the table below, you should find that each section responses match with this table. Please check OffenderTrak to make sure that the total number of 'Yes' responses matches for each section and for the total number of 'Yes' responses overall. The number of 'Yes' responses should not exceed the total maximum for each section or overall. Simply put, you should not see a total of more than 41 'Yes' responses for the total Needs - Q.

Needs – Q Total

Needs – Q Total	Total Yes
Employment/Education (Total possible = 7)	
Substance Abuse (Total possible = 8)	
Attitudes (Total possible = 6)	
Relationships (Total possible = 9)	
Personality (Total possible = 11)	
Total (Total possible = 41)	



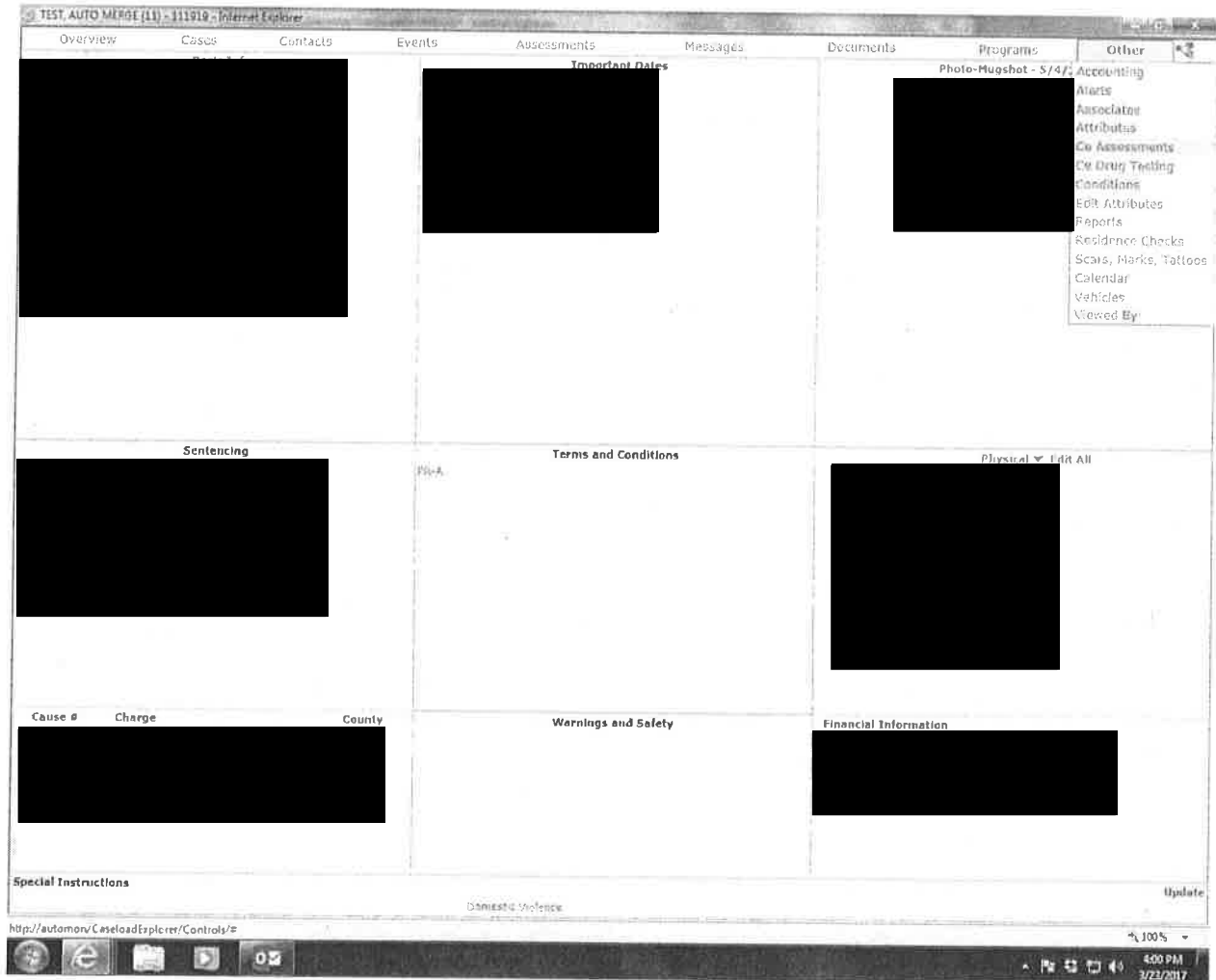
Mississippi Department of Corrections Risk and Needs - Questionnaire Scoring Guide

The Crime and Justice Institute at CRJ
6-1-2017

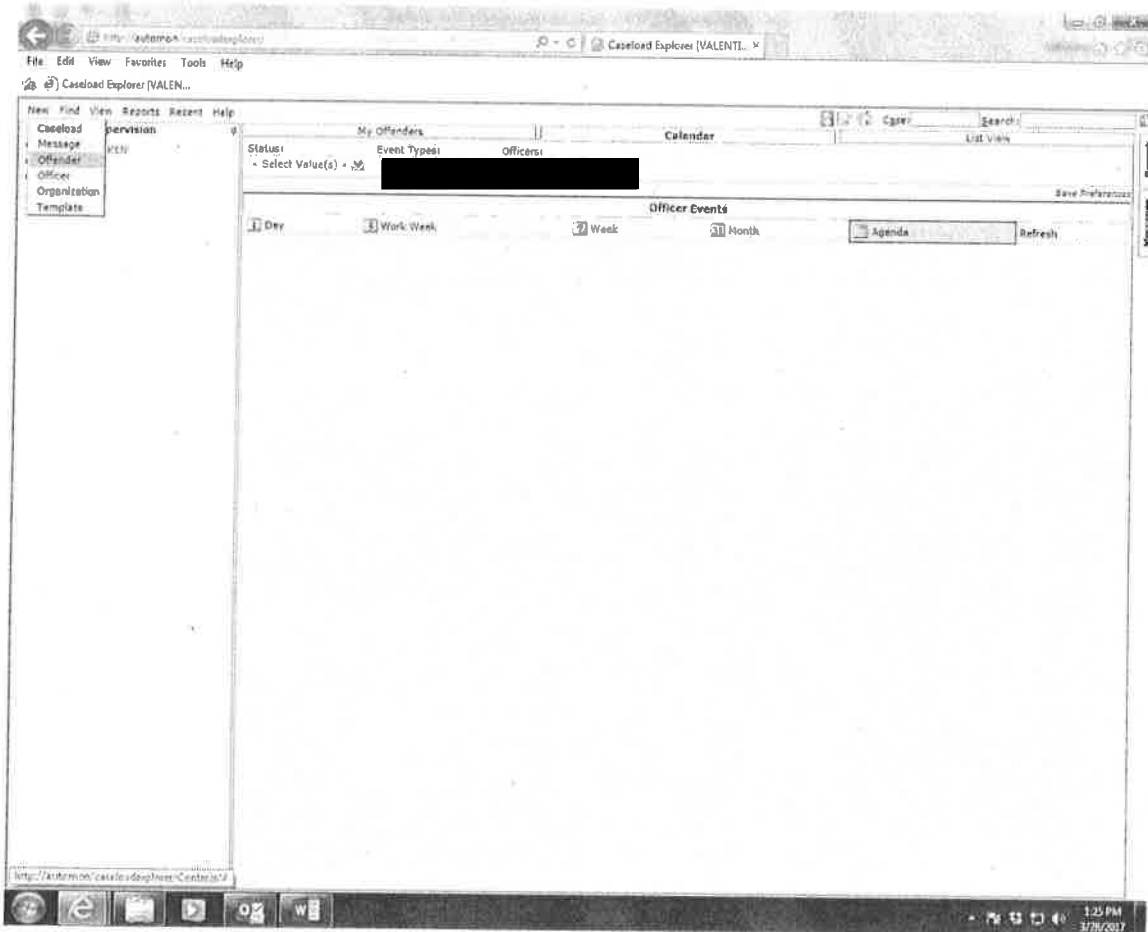
MDOC Risk Assessment and Needs Q Scoring Guide

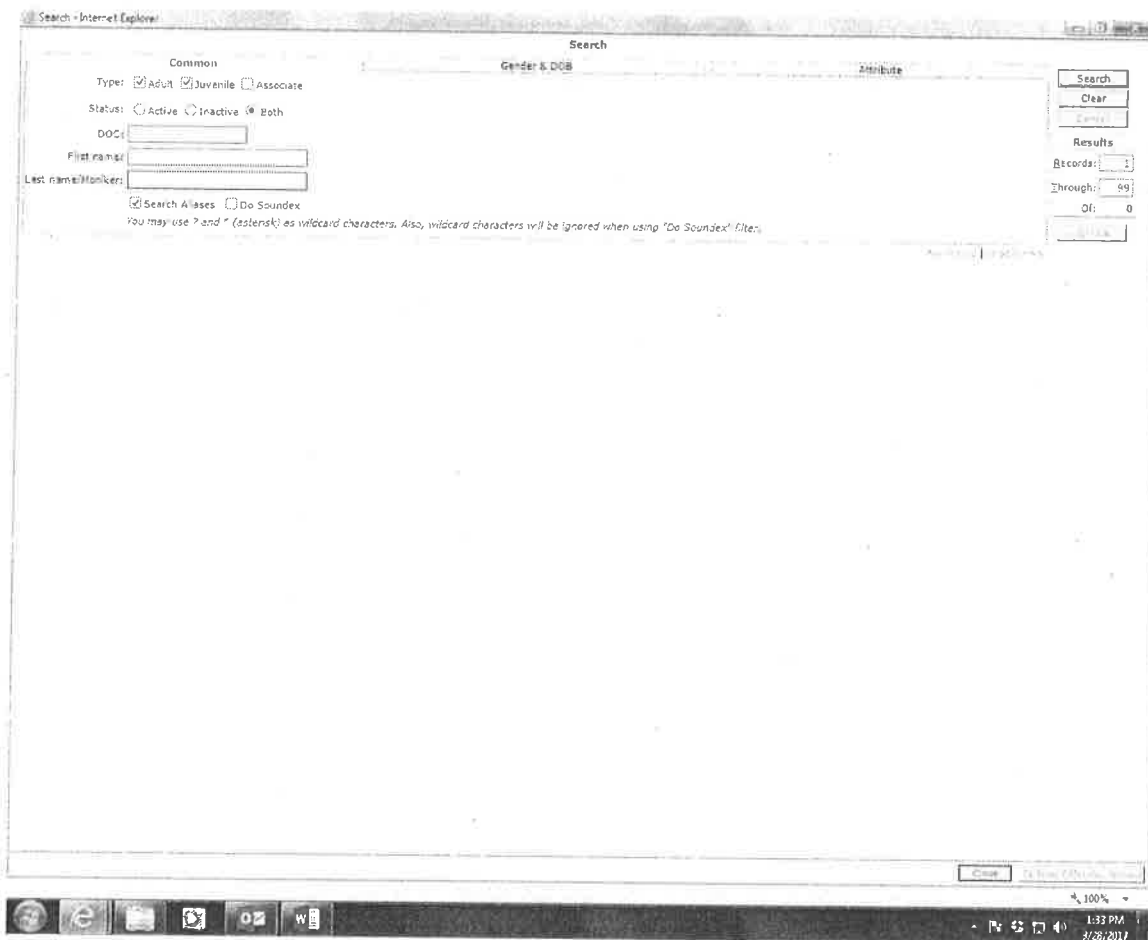
This guide is designed to assist in the scoring of the two part MDOC Risk and Criminogenic Needs Questionnaire. For each item on the Risk Assessment (part one), use the information available in Offendertrak and Caseload Explorer to determine the appropriate number of points in determining the total risk assessment score. This assessment should be completed as part of the intake process and scored accordingly.

1. To access the Risk Assessment and Needs Questionnaire, log in to Caseload Explorer then enter the offender's MDOC number if available, then select "Other" >>Ce-Assessment.



If this is a new offender and either does not have a MDOC number, or you are unable to determine if one already exists, go to “new offender” and complete the “search function.” If located in Caseload Explorer skip to page three.





Establish the new offender in Caseload Explorer and set up his/her file.

2. Once the offender is established in Caseload Explorer, refer to back to page one to access the R/N tool.

From the offender's Overview page >> Other >> Ce-assessment, you should see this screen. If you never logged in to Ce-connect, you will need to complete that before attempting to access the R/N tool in Ce-assessment. To log into Ce-connect, go to your web-browser and enter this url: www.Ce-connect.com, a new screen requesting you to login will come up using your email as your user name and setting up a password to enter. Once you have logged in you will be able to access Ce-assessment from the offender's Caseload Explorer file under "Other."

CeConnect

Sign in with your email account

NAME: [input type="text"]
EMAIL: [input type="text"]

SIGN IN



Logging in.

CeConnect

kv.sen@reg2sdc.state.ms.us

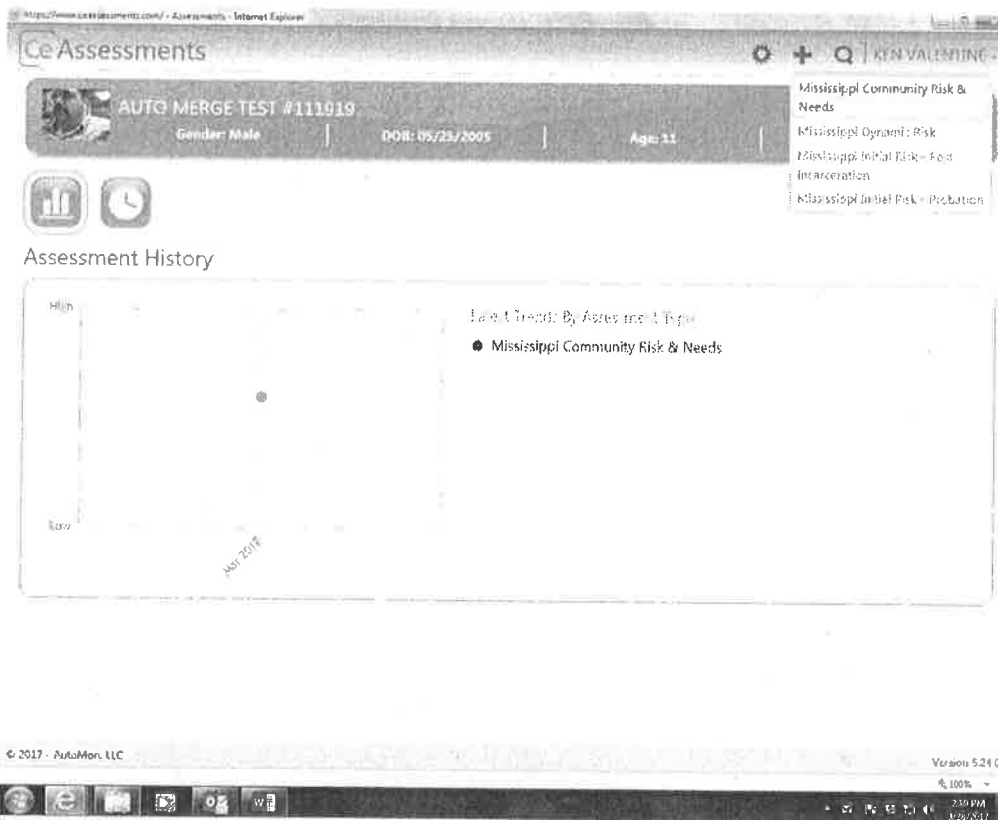
SIGN IN



Once logged in to Ce-assessments, the following screen will pop up.



To begin the Risk/Needs Questionnaire select the “+” sign at the top right of the screen. Select the Mississippi Community Risk and Needs



The Risk/Needs Tool appears like this.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.ceassessments.com/>. The page title is "CeAssessments" and the user is logged in as "KEN VALENTINE". The main heading is "Mississippi Community Risk & Needs". Below the heading, there is a header bar with "Client ID: 111919", "Client Name: AUTO MERGE TEST", and "Assessment Due: 4/4/2017".

The form is divided into two main sections: "Offender Information" and "Risk Factors".

Offender Information

- O11 Custody Status
 - Inmate
 - Probation
 - Parole
 - House Arrest
 - Electronic Monitoring
- O12 Age at First Arrest
 - Age at First Arrest:
- O13 Custody Start Date
 - Custody Start Date:

Risk Factors

- RF1 Age – measured as age supervision start
 - 27 and older
 - 26 and younger
- RF2 Gang involvement – measured as the offender having known gang involvement
 - No gang involvement
 - Self-reported gang involvement
 - Gang involved
- RF3 Total number of current felonies – measured as the total number of felony convictions on the current case at the time of supervision start
 - One felony at the time of supervision start on current case

At the bottom of the form, it says "49 questions remaining". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 11:39 AM on 3/28/2017.

3. Complete the Risk/Needs Assessment Questionnaire from this point using the directions in parts 1 and 2.

With the offender's file open in Ce-assessment, open Offendertrak for reference and begin the Risk assessment.

Risk Assessment – Part 1

1. Age

Intent of item – This item is intended to measure the offender's age at the time of supervision intake for the current sentence. If an offender has been on community supervision prior to this term, **do not** score based on the age at that

term of supervision. Only calculate age based on the current supervision start date.

How to score item –

0 points = the offender is 27 years of age or older at the start of supervision

1 point = the offender is 26 years old or younger at the start of supervision

Where to find scoring information – the risk assessment form has been automated to

generate the offender’s age at intake based on the offender’s age at the time of current status of custody.

Offender Information

INMATE NAME [REDACTED] MDOC# [REDACTED] DATE: [REDACTED] AGE AT SUPERVISION START: 47

To verify the offender’s age, please follow the steps described below.

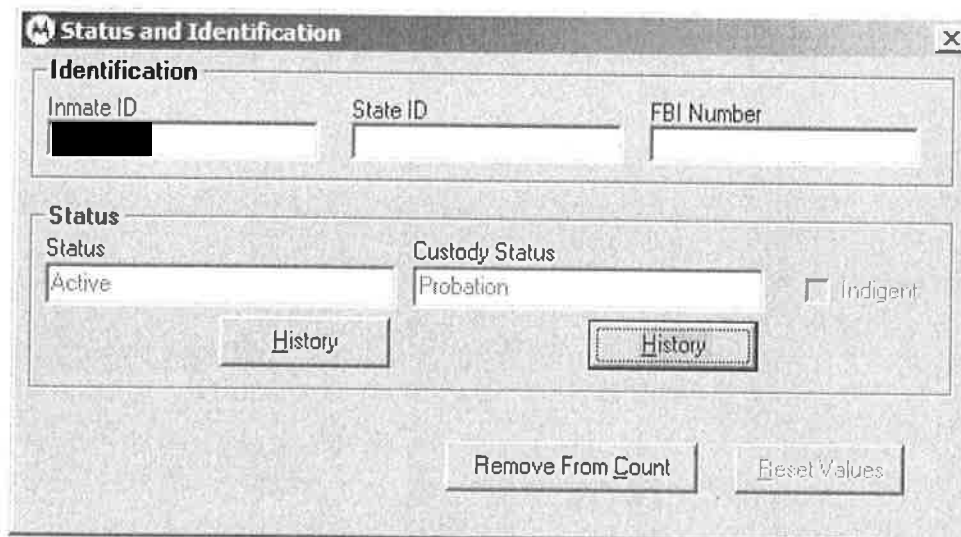
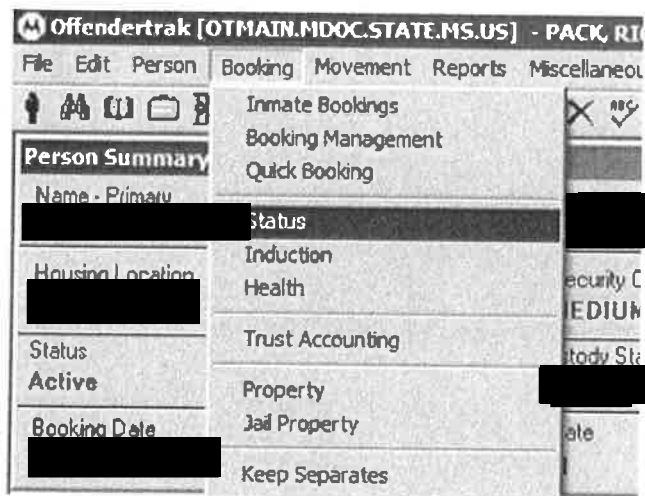
1. Enter the offender’s MDOC number into Offendertrak and review the “Person Summary” section.

On the “Person Summary” section you will see the offender’s date of birth (DOB) as highlighted

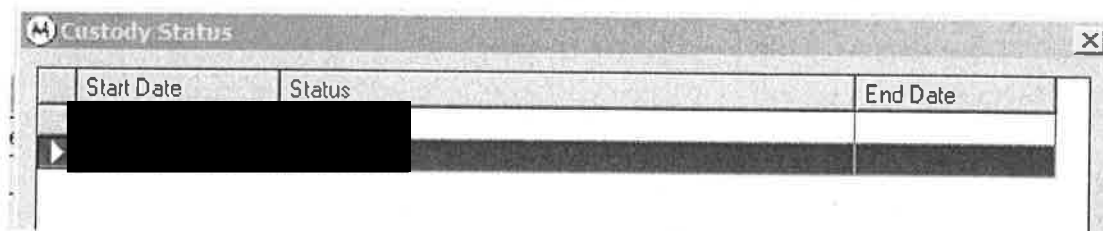
below. In the example below, the offender’s date of birth is July 16, 1968.

Person Summary					
Name - Primary	DOB	Inmate ID	SSN	Sex	Race
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	MALE	BLACK
Housing Location	VNR	Security Class	Hearing Date	Court/Judge	
[REDACTED]	N	MEDIUM			
Status	Custody Status		Custody Status Reason		
Active	[REDACTED]		NEW PRISONER		
Booking Date	Booking #	Booking State	Sentence Start	Expected Release	Alerts (3)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

2. From the “Booking” menu, select “Status.” This will bring up a small window called “status and identification.”



1. Click the “History” button under the “Custody Status” field to display the offender’s custody. In the example below, this offender’s latest custody status is “Probation” as of March 17, 2016. From the Person Summary section, we see that the offender’s date of birth was July 16, 1968. In this case the offender was roughly, 47 years and 9 months old at the time of his Probation. Therefore the score value would be 0 (27 years and older).



2. Gang involvement

Intent of item – This item is intended to measure whether the offender has known gang involvement. “Known” involvement means that the offender has been identified by

MDOC as having affiliation with a security threat group (STG) while in the facility; or identified by another law enforcement entity as a gang member; or displays gang affiliation through tattoos, clothing or other identified gang symbolism.

How to score item –

0 points = no known gang involvement

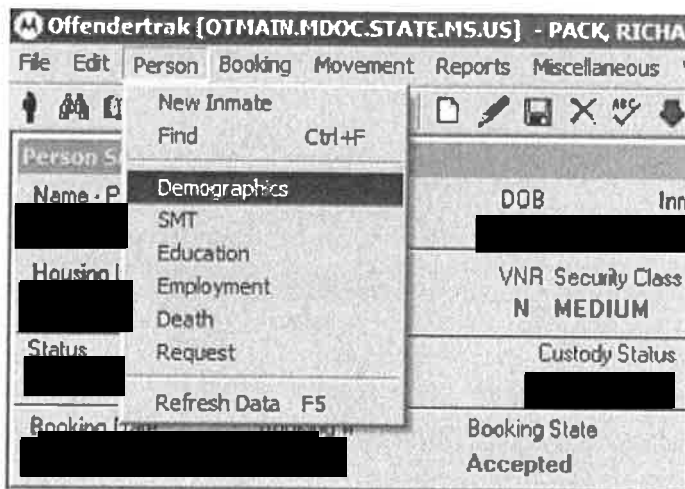
0 points = self-reported gang involvement (please see note below)

1 point = known/documented gang involvement

NOTE: The self-reported gang involvement item is being tracked for data collection purposes. When the MDOC Risk Assessment was developed, only the MDOC gang indicator data could be used to develop this risk factor for the tool, so self-reported data was not available in the development of the MDOC Risk Assessment. The self-reported gang involvement response to this question should only be marked provided that the only source of gang involvement is based on self-reported information. Should the MDOC data systems (Offendertrak, Caseload Explorer) indicate the offender has known/documented gang involvement, the item worth 1 point 'known/documented gang involvement' should be marked. If there is no known gang involvement, then please select 'no known gang involvement,' which is worth 0 points.

Where to find scoring information – Information on the offender's gang affiliation can be found in Offendertrak under the "Person" menu as described in the steps below.

1. Select the "Person" Menu in Offendertrak, then select "Demographics" as shown highlighted below.



2. On the last tab on the Demographics page you will find the gang affiliation information for the inmate. In the example below, the offender did not have any gang affiliation recorded in the data system so the score for this item would be 0 points.

Demographics

Names Address/Telephone/Information Description Contact **Gangs**

Number Of Gangs 0

Gang Name	Chapter	Status	Role

Gang Name

Status

Chapter

Role

Other Attributes

3. Total number of current felonies

Intent of item – This item is intended to measure the total number of felony convictions on the current case at the start of supervision. **Only** felony convictions for the current supervision should be counted. If there are multiple counts of the same crime (e.g. two counts of felony burglary), this counts as two felonies. **Do not** count prior felony convictions from previous cases. **Do not** count felonies for the current case that did not result in a conviction.

How to score item – To score this item, add the total number of all felonies in the current conviction.

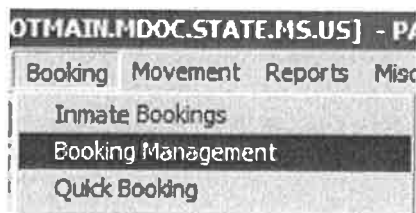
0 points = 1 felony at time of supervision start on current case

1 point = 2 felonies at time of supervision start on current case

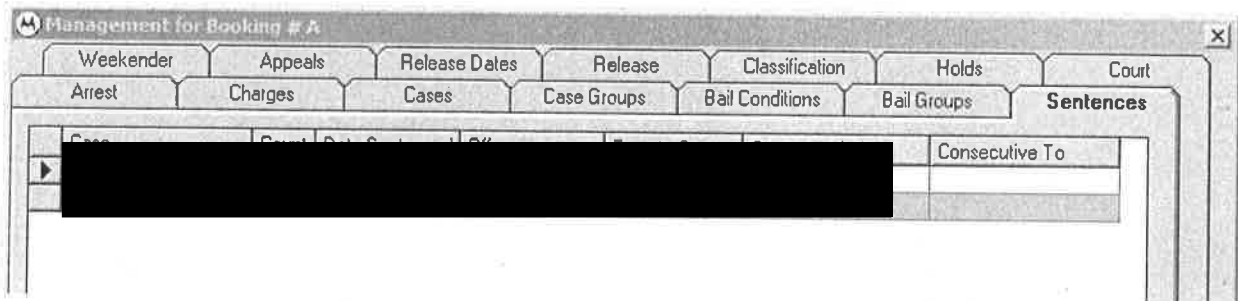
2 points = 3 or more felonies at time of supervision start on current case

Where to find scoring information - This information can be found in Offendertrak under the “Booking” menu as described in the steps below.

1. Select “Booking” and then “Booking Management”



2. On the Booking page, select the "Sentences" tab to locate the offender's list of offenses. In the example below, the offender has 2 felony offenses so the score for this item is 1 point.



4. Number of prior incarcerations

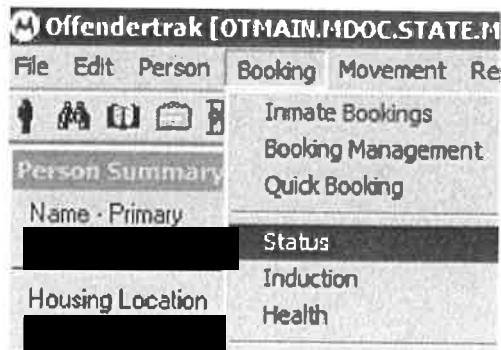
Intent of item – This item is intended to measure the total number of prior incarcerations for the offender. Any prior sentence of incarceration that was served by the offender should count in this item. This includes prior incarcerations that were the result of a probation or parole violation or revocation. **Do count** prior incarcerations for the same original booking or original sentence when there is a parole or probation violation or revocation. For example, if an offender starts a period of incarceration for a sentence, is released on community supervision and then is revoked or is incarcerated for a supervision violation on that same original sentence or original booking, then the original incarceration would now be counted as a prior incarceration for this booking for the supervision violation or revocation. The number of prior incarcerations is to be taken only from the MDOC data systems (Offendertrak and Caseload Explorer). **Do not** count self-reported incarcerations. If the offender has both prior incarcerations in MDOC and other jurisdictions, only count and score the MDOC prior incarcerations. For example, if the offender has one prior incarceration from another jurisdiction (outside MDOC) and one prior incarceration from MDOC, the correct response is '1 point = 1 prior incarceration.'

How to score item – To score this item, add the total number of all prior incarcerations.

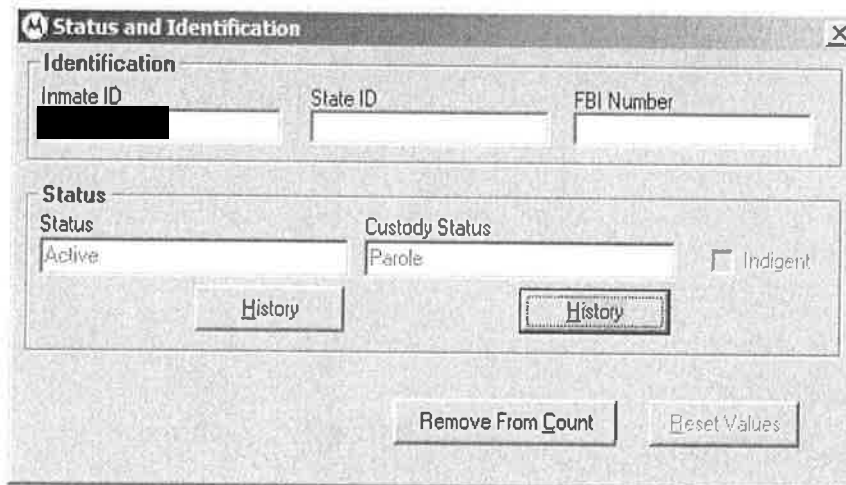
- 0 points = 0 prior incarceration
- 0 points = prior incarcerations from other jurisdictions (please see note below)
- 1 points = 1 prior incarceration
- 2 points = 2+ prior incarcerations

Where to find scoring information –

1. From the "Booking" menu, select "Status." This will bring up a small window called "Status and Identification."



2. Click the "History" button under the "Custody Status" field to display the offender's custody status history



3. Count the number of Custody Status entries that are designated as "Inmate" or "RID" on the most recent booking. Then scroll to previous bookings by selecting the left arrow, which scrolls back one booking at a time.
4. Count the number of Custody Status entries that are designated as "Inmate" or "RID" on each prior booking. In the example below for Offender #197628, this offender has **2** prior MDOC incarcerations.



NOTE: The prior incarcerations from other jurisdictions response is **not** being recorded as these data were not available in the development of the tool. Only MDOC incarceration data was available for this risk factor in the tool's development. **Only** respond to '0 points = prior incarcerations from other jurisdiction' if the offender does not have any MDOC incarcerations but does have out of state, self-report, or inter-state compact prior incarcerations.

5. Institutional violations

Intent of item – This item is intended to measure the number of institutional violations in the offender's history. This includes violations that occurred in a jail and are captured in the MDOC data systems (Offendertrak and Caseload Explorer). Only those violations that were documented should be counted in this item. All institutional violations are counted for this item regardless of severity.

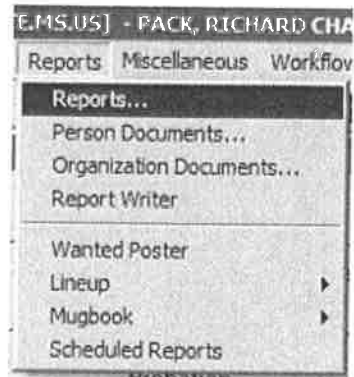
How to score item – To score this item, add the total number of all institutional violations in the offender's history. This includes all major, serious, and institutional violations.

0 points = no institutional violations

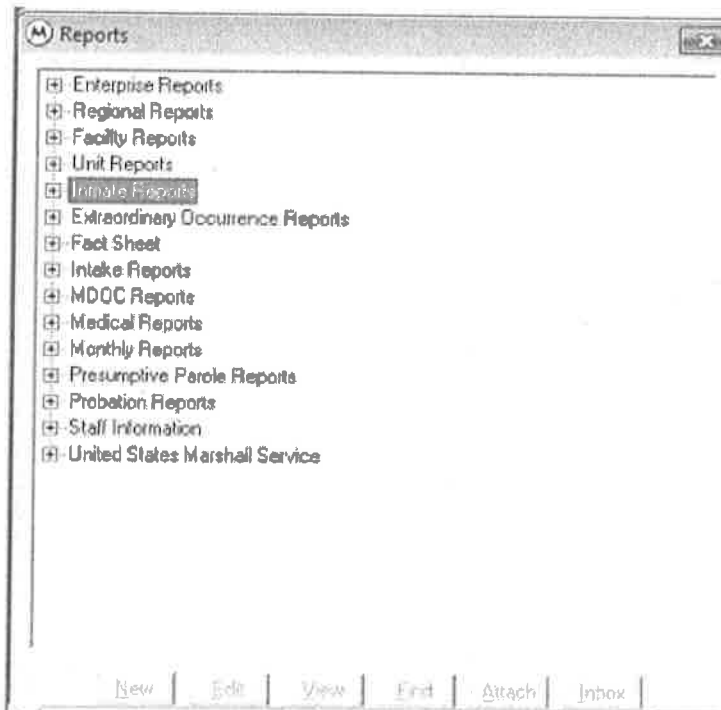
1 point = at least 1 institutional violation

Where to find scoring information - This information can be found in Offendertrak under "Incident Report" as described in the steps below.

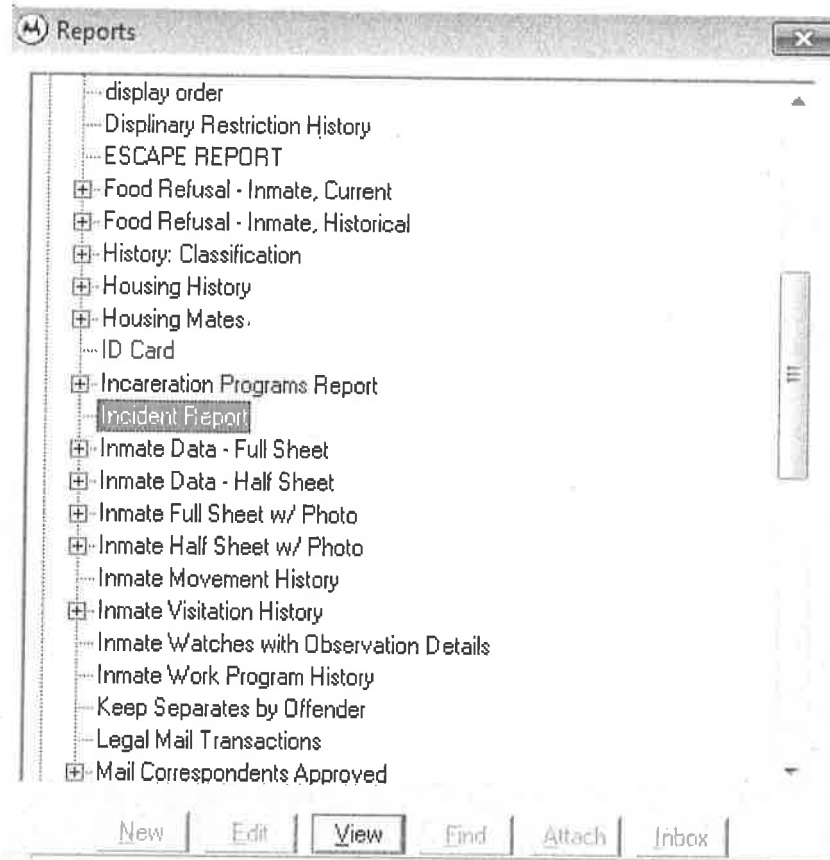
1. From the Offendertrak menu, select "Reports" and then "Reports" as shown below.



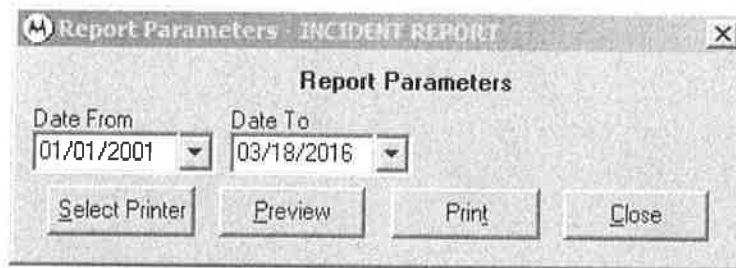
2. Next, select "Inmate Reports" by clicking the plus (+) symbol.



3. From there, scroll down to "Incident Report" and finally, click the "View" button.



4. After you click view, enter a date range in the box below and select "Preview" to display the report. In the example below, inmate #199907 has no reported institutional violations.



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS	
Incident Report	
March 18, 2016	
Facility:	SOUTH CC
Begin Date:	01/01/2001
End Date:	03/18/2016
Inmate ID:	[REDACTED]
SID:	[REDACTED]
FBI ID:	[REDACTED]
SSN:	[REDACTED]
No Data Found.	

Mississippi Department of Corrections

Needs - Questionnaire

Scoring Guide

Purpose

The purpose of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Criminogenic Needs Questionnaire (Needs - Q) is to collect the necessary data to identify an offender's criminogenic needs. The Needs - Q is to be used along with the MDOC risk assessment tool in both the community and facility settings. Ultimately, the Needs - Q information, along with the risk assessment information, will be used to develop a specific risk and needs assessment instrument for the MDOC for use in developing the Parole Case Plan, making programmatic decisions and referrals for offenders, as well as guiding supervision and case management in the field.

At present, both the risk factors identified through the risk assessment instrument and the criminogenic needs identified in the Needs - Q should be targeted within the case plan. The questions on the MDOC risk assessment and the Needs - Q are intended to collect information on the primary risk factors and criminogenic needs that research has repeatedly shown to be predictive of future offending behavior. Following the data collection phase, the Needs - Q information will be analyzed, along with a variety of other data already collected by the MDOC, to develop and then subsequently validate a risk and needs assessment instrument that identifies the risk to recidivate and the primary targets for intervention for offenders within Mississippi. Completing the Needs - Q and scoring the MDOC risk assessment with fidelity are critical steps towards developing an appropriate and predictive risk and needs assessment tool that will allow the MDOC to successfully move forward in becoming a risk-based system.

Following an overview of the purpose of each of the Needs - Q sections, directions on how to properly score each item will be provided. The tool should be scored based on information provided by the offender in a directed interview conducted by MDOC staff. The Needs - Q Interview Guide will provide more specific questions that will be helpful in scoring the items on the assessment. Staff should analyze the information provided by the offender in the interview and determine whether it fits the criteria for each of the Needs - Q questions.

Needs – Q Scoring Criteria

The following sections provide specific criteria for scoring each of the items on the Needs - Q assessment. Using the Needs - Q Interview Guide, staff should interview the offender with the purpose of answering each of the Yes/No questions. In terms of scoring, if an item is marked as 'Yes', this indicates that the factor being measured IS a need factor for the individual. The items that are marked as risk factors should be targeted for change in case planning, as they represent the offender having a criminogenic need in that area. Conversely, if an item is marked 'No,' that means this is not an issue for the offender and should not be targeted in case planning. Prior to scoring the assessment, staff should review OffenderTrak and Caseload Explorer for information regarding the offender's personal history and criminal record. If it is available, staff should also review the offender's presentence investigation report for corroborating information. When scoring the Needs - Q assessment, compare the information provided by the offender to the scoring criteria listed below and mark items as 'Yes' or 'No' accordingly. Some items will be scored based primarily on the offender's self-report, while others will rely on the judgement of the assessor to evaluate the offender's answers and score the items based on the scoring criteria provided.

Employment/Education Purpose & Overview

The employment and education section contains seven items. The purpose of this section is to identify whether the offender has criminogenic needs associated with employment or education so that goals can be written into the case plan to target this criminogenic need area. Often, offenders will have conditions of supervision that require them to get a job, to complete their high school degree, or to earn a GED; however, when the offender has needs that are revealed in the employment/education section, this indicates that the offender has difficulty getting and keeping a job or staying involved long enough in school to finish. Earning a high school education or GED and being employed are stabilizing factors in a person's life; when employment and/or education is identified as a criminogenic need, goals and action steps should focus on identifying and overcoming individual obstacles to getting the job or finishing school, and then future goals and action steps should be set for the purpose of maintaining that job.

1. *Are you currently unemployed or were you unemployed prior to incarceration?*

- For this item, 'currently' means in the present. When asking this question at the beginning of a supervision term, this item should be marked 'Yes' if the offender was unemployed at the beginning of his or her supervision. When the offender is being asked this question at intake into an MDOC facility, 'currently' means immediately prior to this incarceration.
- If the offender is capable of work, then the response is 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she is not currently employed.
- If the offender is retired and the retirement funds are sufficient for the offender to be financially stable (which requires the offender stating that he or she is retired and is financially stable) then the response to this question is 'No.'
- If the offender is retired and the retirement funds are not sufficient for the offender to be financially stable (which requires the offender stating that he or she is retired but is not financially stable) then the response to this question is 'Yes.'
- If the offender has a disability and collects SSI or disability funding, then mark 'No' to this question.
- If the offender has a disability but does not collect SSI or disability funding, then mark 'Yes' to this question.

2. *Have you ever been fired from a job?*

- If the offender has ever been fired from a job, this question should be marked 'Yes.' This includes jobs that were held as a juvenile and jobs that were paid 'under the table.' If the offender reports that he or she quit a job because he or she was going to get fired, this item should be marked 'Yes.'

3. *Have most of your jobs been for less than a year?*

- Score this item as 'Yes' if the majority of the offender's jobs have lasted less than one year. If most of the offender's jobs have lasted

more than one year, this item should be scored as 'No.' 'Most' means more than half of the jobs the offender reports having. If the offender says that he or she has never held a job for more than a year, this should be scored 'Yes.'

4. *Were you unable to graduate from high school or earn a GED?*

- Score this item 'Yes' when the offender reports that he or she **does not** have a high school diploma or GED. This item should be scored 'No' if the offender has a diploma or GED, regardless of when or where this was earned (e.g., alternative school, jail).

5. *Were you ever suspended or expelled from school?*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she has ever been suspended or expelled from any school setting. This includes suspensions or expulsions from elementary school, junior high/middle school, and high school. Suspensions or expulsions from alternative schools should also be marked as 'Yes.'

6. *Have you typically had poor relationships with job supervisors, fellow workers, teachers, and/or fellow students?*

- This items should be scored as 'Yes' if the offender reports having bad relationships in school or work settings. Indicators can include frequent verbal confrontations or fights, isolation from peers at work or school, or reports that the offender is not liked at school or work. If the offender reports only one or two isolated incidents with a co-worker, supervisor, peer, or teacher that the offender did not get along with, this question should be scored 'No.' Score this item 'Yes' if negative relationships at school and work are a common part of the offender's experience in these areas. If the offender classifies himself or herself as a 'loner' or indicates that he or she separates from co-workers/school peers, or that he or she is or was unpopular at work/school, this item should be scored 'Yes.'

7. *Would your most recent job supervisor or most recent teacher say your work performance was poor or you had difficulty getting along with others?*

- To score this item, the offender should be asked about his or her most recent supervisor, if the offender was employed just before supervision/intake, or the most recent teacher, if the offender was in school just before supervision/intake. 'Recent' could also mean current if the offender was employed or attending school just before supervision/intake. This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender reports that the person in this role would assess his or her performance as poor. This item is based on the **self-reported** opinion of the offender in terms of what his or her most recent supervisor or teacher would say.

Substance Abuse Purpose & Overview

The substance abuse section contains eight items. The purpose of this section is to identify whether the offender has criminogenic needs associated with substance abuse so that goals can be written into the case plan to target this criminogenic need area. Often, offenders will be required to participate in substance abuse programming or treatment and/or the offender is required to comply with drug and alcohol screening as conditions of supervision or as part of his or her incarceration. When offenders have needs in the substance abuse section, this indicates that they may benefit from programming and services related to substance abuse. This section is designed to assess needs based on the offender's actual drug and alcohol use, not just being involved in drug related crimes (e.g. trafficking). If the offender sells drugs but does not use or abuse drugs, he or she will likely have few 'Yes' answers in this area. While selling drugs is a problem, it is not a problem that would be addressed through substance abuse treatment (which is what a high score in this area would indicate).

When substance abuse is identified as a criminogenic need, goals and action steps should focus on identifying how substance abuse has impacted the offender's life and what reasonable steps can be taken by the offender to begin to address his or her substance abuse needs. Keep in mind, some offenders may have a serious and long term addiction to drugs and/or alcohol, some may have just had more short term involvement and have entered the criminal justice system with convictions associated with drugs and/or alcohol, and some may not be willing to seek help or support to address his or her substance abuse needs. Because many offenders with substance abuse problems fail to recognize or deny the problem, scoring

some of the items in this section will require the assessor to match the information provided by the offender with the objective scoring criteria provided below. In general, an assessment of a drug or alcohol problem is not solely based on the offender's admission of a problem (although that may be one indicator).

1. *Do you have a history of alcohol abuse or problems with alcohol?*

- When scoring this item, 'history' refers to a time in the offender's past where he or she has had problems with alcohol. As a frame of reference, 'history' should be considered any time more than **one year** from the time of the assessment. History includes adolescence.
- This item should be scored 'Yes' if there are indicators in official documentation (e.g., OffenderTrak, Caseload Explorer, presentence investigation report) that the offender has a history of alcohol problems AND/OR if the offender reports having a history of alcohol problems. Indicators may include a documented diagnosis of alcoholism, health problems related to alcohol use, prior treatment for alcohol abuse (not counting Alcoholics Anonymous – AA), prior charges related to alcohol use (e.g., DUI), problems in other areas of the offender's life (e.g., work/school, relationships) related to alcohol use. Scoring this item as 'Yes' DOES NOT require an admission by the offender of an alcohol problem. Scoring this item requires the assessor to look for indicators of alcohol abuse beyond self-report. If the offender reports problems in multiple areas of his or her life related to alcohol use, this item should be scored 'Yes.' Occasional alcohol use or social drinking that is not related to problems in the offender's life should be scored 'No.'

2. *Do you have a history of drug abuse or problems with drugs?*

- When scoring this item, 'history' refers to a time in the offender's past where he has had problems with drugs. As a frame of reference, 'history' should be considered any time more than **one year** from the time of the assessment. History includes adolescence.

- When scoring this item, 'drugs' refers to the abuse of any illegal psychoactive substance. This also refers to the misuse of prescription drugs. Scoring of this item does not include alcohol or tobacco.
- This item should be scored 'Yes' if there are indicators in official documentation (e.g., OffenderTrak, Caseload Explorer, presentence investigation report) that the offender has a history of drug problems AND/OR if the offender reports having a history of drug problems. Indicators may include a documented diagnosis of drug addiction, health problems related to drug use, prior treatment for drug abuse (not counting Narcotics Anonymous – NA or AA), prior charges related to drug use (drug trafficking should not be counted here), problems in other areas of the offender's life (e.g., work/school, relationships) related to drug use. Scoring this item as 'Yes' DOES NOT require an admission by the offender of a drug problem. Scoring this item requires the assessor to look for indicators of drug abuse beyond self-report. If the offender reports problems in multiple areas of his or her life related to drug use, this item should be scored 'Yes.' One-time experimentation with drugs should be scored 'No.' If the offender reports that he or she has used more frequently than experimentation, but there is no evidence that his or her use caused a problem in his or her life, this should be scored 'No.'

3. Do you have family or friends who currently have problems with drugs or alcohol?

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she has family and/or friends that have problems with drugs or alcohol. 'Family' and 'friends' should include people that the offender sees and spends time with on a regular basis. 'Problems' may include legal problems (e.g., arrest, incarceration), medical issues, trouble with work or school, or trouble with relationships related to the use of drugs or alcohol; 'problems' may also include concern expressed by others around that person's drug and/or alcohol use. This item should be based on the offender's **self-report** of drug or alcohol problems among his or her family and friends. 'Currently' having a drug or alcohol problem refers to the last 12 months.

4. *Have drugs or alcohol caused problems with your job or school?*

- This question should be scored with respect to the offender's current drug and alcohol use. To score this item, refer to the offender's use of drugs and alcohol within the past 12 months.
- Score this item 'Yes' if there are indicators that the offender has problems with school or work based on the offender's substance use AND/OR if the offender reports problems in this area related to his or her use. 'Problems' may include showing up to work/school late, missing work/school because the offender is hungover or still intoxicated, showing up to work or school intoxicated, problems with co-workers/teachers/supervisors because of drug or alcohol use, being fired or disciplined at work, or being suspended or expelled from school because of substance use. If these problems occurred prior to the past 12 months and do not currently occur because the person is not using, this item should be scored 'No.' Scoring this item requires the assessor to look for indicators of problems in this area related to drug or alcohol use beyond the offender's self-report. The offender may not believe that he or she has problems in these areas related to substance abuse, but if indicators of problems are present, this item should be scored 'Yes.'

5. *Have drugs or alcohol caused problems with any current relationships?*

- This question should be scored with respect to the offender's current drug and alcohol use. To score this item, refer to the offender's use of drugs and alcohol within the past 12 months.
- Score this item 'Yes' if there are indicators that the offender's use of drugs or alcohol has caused problems in relationships with family or friends AND/OR if the offender reports problems in this area based on his or her use. Indicators may include family refusing to be involved with the offender because of his or her use, family or friends severing contact because of the offender's use, or strained relationships. If the offender reports that there have been problems in some relationships (but not others) that are related to the offender's use, and the offender is bothered by those problems, score this item as 'Yes.' If there were problems with family or friends because of the offender's use and those problems have since been

resolved, score this item 'No.' Scoring this item requires the assessor to look for indicators of problems in this area related to drug or alcohol use beyond the offender's self-report. The offender may not believe that he or she has problems in these areas related to substance abuse, but if indicators of problems are present, this item should be scored 'Yes.'

6. *Have you ever been in trouble with the law for drug or alcohol use?*

- For this item, score based on the offender's entire history, including adolescence. This item includes trouble with the adult as well as the juvenile justice system.
- Score this item 'Yes' if there are official indicators (e.g., in OffenderTrak or Caseload Explorer) that the offender has ever been in trouble with the law for drugs or alcohol AND/OR if the offender reports that he or she been in trouble with the law based on use of these substances. 'Trouble with the law' includes being arrested (with or without conviction) for drug or alcohol related crimes, serving a community supervision sentence related to use, or being incarcerated in jail or prison as a result of drug and/or alcohol use.
- If the offender was arrested and was under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at the time of the arrest, this item should be scored 'Yes.'
- If the offender only has charges related to drug trafficking or possession and does not use drugs, this item should be marked 'No.' This item relates to legal problems associated with the offender's actual drug or alcohol use.

7. *Have you ever participated in treatment for drugs or alcohol?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if there is evidence that the offender participated in treatment for drug or alcohol use AND/OR if the offender reports participating in such treatment. Participation in treatment should be counted as 'Yes' whether court-ordered or voluntary. This item should be scored 'Yes' for both successful and unsuccessful completion of treatment. If the offender was enrolled in a treatment program and dropped out or was asked to leave, this item should be scored 'Yes.' Participation in drug and/or alcohol

treatment as a juvenile should also be scored 'Yes.' Participation in either inpatient or outpatient treatment should be scored 'Yes.' Treatment also includes participating in any groups or one-on-one counseling for substance abuse. This item should be scored 'No' if the only treatment for drugs or alcohol that has been participated in AA or NA.

8. *Do you believe drugs or alcohol are a current problem?*

- This item should be scored based on the offender's **self-report** of his or her drug and alcohol use in the past 12 months. Score this item 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she thinks he or she has a problem with drugs and/or alcohol at the present time. If the offender reports that he or she 'used to have a problem' but indicates no problem in the present, this item should be scored 'No.' Even if there are other indicators of a drug or alcohol problem (e.g., items 3 through 7 have been scored Yes), if the offender self-reports that he or she does not believe he or she has a problem, this item should be scored 'No.'

Attitudes Purpose & Overview

The attitudes section contains six items. The purpose of this section is to identify whether the offender has antisocial attitudes. Often, offenders will indicate or express antisocial attitudes by justifying their offending, minimizing their responsibility or the harm their behavior has caused, or expressing that the system treated them unfairly. The offender may also suggest that most people are involved in criminal activity, so there is no need to 'make a big deal' out of his offending behavior.

When antisocial attitudes are identified as a criminogenic need, the case plan goals and action steps should focus on identifying what thoughts and attitudes the offender uses to justify his offending behavior. Goals can also address teaching and practicing new prosocial attitudes, behaviors, and skills so that the offender can have an alternative response to situations that previously have gotten him into trouble.

1. *Do you believe that most people get in trouble with the law?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender self-reports that he or she believes that the majority of people get in trouble with the law. He or

she may indicate that ‘everyone breaks the law,’ or state something similar.

2. *Do you believe that your trouble with the law is due to bad luck or misunderstanding?*

- This item should be scored ‘Yes’ if there are indicators that the offender does not take responsibility for his or her actions and seems to blame others. The offender may cite ‘bad luck for getting caught’ as the reason for his or her current involvement with the criminal justice system or say that the offender’s current trouble was a misunderstanding by police, the victim, or the courts. If the offender makes statements that reflect he or she has taken responsibility for the criminal behavior, this item should be scored ‘No.’

3. *Do you believe the police and court treated you unfairly?*

- For this item, assess whether the offender self-reports that he or she feels he or she was treated unfairly during interactions with the police and the courts. The offender may express sentiments such as ‘the police are out to get me’ or ‘the system is rigged.’ In these and similar cases, this item should be scored ‘Yes.’ If the offender reports that he or she was treated unfairly by one person in the processing of the case, but not by the system as a whole, this item should be scored ‘No.’ If the offender indicates that he or she was treated fairly through the criminal justice process, this item should be scored ‘No.’

4. *Do you believe the sentence on the current case was unfair?*

- This item measures the offender’s self-reported opinion of his or her sentence in the present case. If the offender indicates that he or she believes the current sentence was unfairly harsh, mark this item as ‘Yes.’ This item specifically measures the offender’s feelings toward the sentence in the case (not the handling by police or courts). Score this item ‘No’ if the offender indicates that the sentence in the current case was fair.

5. *Did the police or court make a bigger deal out of your case than necessary?*

- This item measures the extent to which the offender agrees with the laws and consequences pertaining to his or her criminal behavior. If the offender indicates that the police should be spending time on other types of crime, says that the offender's behavior was 'no big deal,' or otherwise minimizes the seriousness of the offender's offense or the harm it may have caused, this item should be marked 'Yes.' Score this item 'No' if the offender indicates that the handling of his or her crime was consistent with the level of seriousness of the behavior.

6. *Should the law focus more time on other crimes instead of the crime you were convicted of?*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she believes the law incorrectly focused on his or her crime. The offender may indicate that the current crime 'isn't that serious.' In that case, this item should be marked 'Yes.' If question #5 above is scored yes, it is important to distinguish if the offender also expects that law enforcement and the courts should focus on other crimes.

Relationships Purpose & Overview

The relationships section contains nine items. The purpose of this section is to identify whether the offender has relationships with antisocial peers and others. The presence of antisocial peers (and the lack of prosocial others) is a strong predictor of recidivism. The criminogenic need, 'antisocial peers,' is basically assessed in two ways. First, the Needs - Q measures whether or not the offender has strong relationships with others who also engage in or support offending behavior. Second, the assessment measures whether or not the offender has strong relationships with individuals who are prosocial and would be supportive of the offender adopting a prosocial lifestyle. If the offender does not have prosocial and supportive family and friends, and primarily has antisocial peers in his or her life, the offender will be at greater risk to recidivate.

When antisocial peers or relationships are identified as a criminogenic need, the case plan goals and action steps should focus on identifying the characteristics of others who are prosocial, perhaps setting action steps around participating in prosocial activities, developing coping skills to avoid antisocial peers, and practicing communication skills to develop and maintain prosocial relationships.

To score the items in this section, use the following definitions:

'Family members' - Individuals with whom the offender has a legal or a biological relationship. 'Family members' may include spouses, parents, step parents, siblings, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

'Close friends' - Individuals with whom the offender does not have a legal or biological relationship, but who the offender reports are close to them. 'Close friends' may include significant others (current and former) and other non-family members that the offender considers close and with whom the offender spends a significant amount of time.

'Associates' - Individuals with whom the offender does not have a legal or biological relationship and whom the offender does not identify as a close friend, but with whom the offender may engage with occasionally. 'Associates' may include neighbors or coworkers, or others that the offender socializes with occasionally.

'Trouble with the law' – This does not require convictions or incarcerations. 'Trouble with the law' can mean being arrested, detained in jail, picked up by the police, having court dates, etc. If the offender is young or has young siblings or young friends, 'trouble with the law' may include involvement in the juvenile justice system.

1. *Do you have family members who have been in trouble with the law?*
 - This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she has family members who have ever been arrested, convicted, on community supervision, and/or incarcerated.
 - To score this item, refer to the definitions for 'family members' and 'trouble with the law.'
 - If the family members who have been in trouble with the law are estranged and the offender has no contact with them, this item should be marked 'No.'

2. *Do you have at least one close friend who has been in trouble with the law?*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she has at least one close friend who has ever been arrested, convicted, placed on community supervision, or incarcerated.
- To score this item, refer to the definitions for 'close friends' and 'trouble with the law.'

3. Have you participated in activities with family or friends that could get you in trouble with the law?

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she has engaged in criminal behavior with individuals that fall in the 'family' or 'close friends' category. This behavior does not have to result in criminal charges, but if it could have resulted in charges, this item should be scored 'Yes.' This includes illicit drug use. If all of the offender's close friends and family members are law-abiding, this item should be scored 'No.'
- To score this item, refer to the definitions for 'family members,' 'close friends,' and 'trouble with the law.'

4. Have family members ever been upset with you for being in trouble with the law?

- For this item to be scored 'Yes,' there should be indicators that the offender's trouble with the law has had a negative effect on his or her relationships with family members. Indicators of problems with family members may include self-reported strained or distant relationships, family members who have ended their relationships with the offender, reduced time spent with the offender, and/or family members keeping minor family members away from the offender. Indicators may also include family members expressing their displeasure with the offender's behavior directly to the offender. If the offender reports that he or she has close, positive relationships with family members and that the family members support the offender, this item should be scored 'No'.
- To score this item, refer to the definitions of 'family members' and 'trouble with the law.'

5. *Have close friends ever been upset with you for being in trouble with the law?*

- For this item to be scored 'Yes,' there should be indicators that the offender's trouble with the law has had a negative impact on his or her relationships with close friends. Indicators or problems with close friends may include friends spending less time with or severing ties with the offender. Indicators may also include close friends expressing their displeasure with the offender's behavior directly to him or her. If the offender reports that he or she has strong positive relationships with his or her close friends and that the friends are supportive of the offender, this item should be marked 'No.'
- To score this item, refer to the definitions of 'close friends' and 'trouble with the law.'

6. *Have the majority of your friends or associates been in trouble with the law?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the majority (more than half) of the offender's close friends and/or associates have ever been arrested, convicted, placed on community supervision, and/or incarcerated.
- For the purpose of scoring this item, if the offender has only one 'close friend,' that individual counts as the majority of the offender's friends and associates. If the offender reports that he or she has only one close friend (and no real associates by his or her own self-report), and the close friend is engaging in offending behavior or is in trouble with the law, this item should be scored 'Yes.'
- To score this item, refer to the definitions of 'close friends,' 'associates,' and 'trouble with the law.'

7. *Do your family members who have not been in trouble with the law avoid seeing you or talking with you.*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender reports that any of his or her family members who have not been in trouble with the law have reduced the amount of time they spend with the offender or avoid the offender. If the offender reports that he or she regularly sees his law-abiding family members, this item should be scored 'No.'

- To score this item, refer to the definitions of ‘family members’ and ‘trouble with the law.’

8. *Is it hard to have a close relationship with family or friends who have not been in trouble with the law?*

- Score this item ‘Yes’ if the offender reports difficulty in maintaining relationships with family members and friends who have not been in trouble with the law. Indicators may include the offender’s self-reported difficulty in maintaining these relationships, or lack of involvement with family and friends who have not been in trouble with the law. If the offender reports that he or she maintains close relationships with family and friends who have not been in trouble with the law, this item should be scored ‘No.’
- To score this item, refer to the definitions of ‘family members,’ ‘close friends,’ and ‘trouble with the law.’

9. *Do you spend the majority of your free time with others who have been in trouble with the law?*

- Score this item ‘Yes’ if the offender reports that he spends most of his or her free time with individuals who have been in trouble with the law. This may include family members, close friends, and/or associates who have ever been arrested, convicted, placed on community supervision, and/or incarcerated.
- For the purpose of scoring this item, ‘free time’ is considered the time that the offender spends outside of structured prosocial activities that occur regularly. For example, work and school are structured prosocial activities; what the offender does outside of work and school would be considered free time. If the offender is unemployed, assess how he or she spends the majority of his or her time throughout the day and evening. ‘Free time’ for individuals who are retired or have a disability would still be time spent that is outside regular and routine structured prosocial activities. Individuals who are retired or have a disability may have more free time than other offenders.
- To score this item, refer to the definitions of ‘family members,’ ‘close friends,’ ‘associates,’ and ‘trouble with the law.’

Personality Purpose & Overview

The personality section contains eleven items. The purpose of this section is to identify whether the offender has antisocial personality characteristics. This criminogenic need, along with antisocial attitudes and antisocial peers, make up the three dynamic risk factors associated with the Big Four (history of antisocial behavior is the fourth, and is a static risk factor). When scoring this section, look for patterns in the offender's behavior rather than isolated incidents. Scoring this section will require the assessor to synthesize information from the other portions of the Needs - Q interview to evaluate the offender's personality based on the dimensions represented in the assessment. Scoring of these items will be based on the offender's self-report to related questions and the scoring criteria listed below.

When antisocial personality is identified as a criminogenic need, the case plan goals and action steps should focus on addressing impulsive decision-making while helping the offender develop: (1) coping and problem-solving skills, (2) skills that will allow the offender to respond to conflict or stressful situations in a calm and prosocial (rather than aggressive) manner, and (3) to recognize the impact of his behavior on others. Some offenders may also need to examine the various situations or people that prompt their risky decision-making. It is important to recognize that the offender will likely need multiple opportunities to practice any new skills that are introduced, so that the new skills, or new behaviors, can be reinforced and hopefully sustained.

1. *Do you often do things without thinking?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she often acts quickly or impulsively. Indicators may include the offender reporting that he or she loses patience easily, tends to respond very quickly in most situations, or is otherwise impulsive in his or her responses to many situations. If the offender reports acting impulsively or responding quickly on a one-time or infrequent basis, this item should be scored 'No.'

2. *Do you react immediately to situations that are stressful?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she tends to respond to stressful situations very quickly or without thinking. For this item to be scored 'Yes,' the offender should indicate that he or

she does not take the time to think in stressful situations, or tends to jump to the first solution he or she can think of to alleviate the stress. Using drugs or alcohol immediately to alleviate stress can also be an indicator here. Look for patterns in the offender's behavior and score this item based on how he or she deals with stress overall. If the offender reports that he or she likes to weigh many options before deciding how to deal with stress, or relates that he or she has many prosocial coping strategies to deal with stress, this item should be marked 'No.'

3. *Is it hard to pay attention?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she has difficulty attending to a single task, has a hard time completing tasks that require a lot of attention, or does not perform well in situations requiring attention to detail over an extended period of time. Indicators may include the offender struggling to focus on the Needs - Q interview, reports from the offender of attention problems at work or school, or a current diagnosis of attention deficit or hyperactivity disorder. If the offender is being medicated for this disorder, and is taking his or her medication as prescribed, score this item based on his or her behavior *when medicated*. If the offender has a prescription for this condition and is not taking it properly, score his or her overall behavior.

4. *Do you try new things because 'you only live once?'*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender indicates a willingness to try a variety of behaviors, regardless of risk, out of a need to have various experiences. Offenders may use the phrase 'YOLO' or 'you only live once' to describe how he or she approaches life. Alternately, the offender may say things like 'you are only young once' or say that the offender is 'just living life to the fullest.' These phrases would indicate that an answer of 'Yes' should be marked for this question. If the offender indicates that he or she makes decisions with a degree of caution and/or recognizes that some choices may be detrimental and therefore not worth pursuing, score this item 'No.' Look for patterns in the offender's thinking and behavior that reflect this philosophy.

5. *Do you feel that sometimes you are not in control?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender indicates that he or she does not feel in control of the circumstances of his or her life. Indicators may include statements such as 'that's the way it is,' 'it wasn't my fault,' or other statements that indicate a lack of control. If the offender makes statements that suggest that he or she accepts responsibility for his or her behavior or recognizes that the consequences the offender is experiencing are a result of his or her behavior, this item should be scored 'No.'

6. *Do you respond to many situations in an angry manner?*

- This item assesses the extent to which the offender responds to situations with anger. Indicators may include the offender reporting that he or she has a 'bad temper' or 'short fuse.' Indicators may also include reports that the offender engages in many verbal or physical altercations, especially if he or she is the instigator in these situations. Indicators may also include official reports of violence or violence related charges, although that does not warrant an automatic score of 'Yes.' To score this item 'Yes,' look for angry responses as a pattern of behavior for this individual. If the offender reports that he or she rarely gets angry, this item should be scored 'No.'

7. *Is it hard to be calm when you are stressed or upset?*

- This item assesses the extent to which the offender is able to remain calm in stressful situations. Unlike the previous question, this item assesses responses to stress and elevated emotional states, rather than anger. If the offender reports that he or she does not deal well with stress, has a hard time remaining calm, or gets upset frequently or easily, score this item 'Yes.' If the offender reports being able to calmly handle most stressful situations, this item should be scored 'No.' Look for patterns in coping skills, not an occasional or one time negative response to stressful or emotional situations.

8. *Do you enjoy taking risks?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if, as a pattern of behavior, the offender reports enjoying risky activities or participates in risky activities frequently. While risky behavior can include criminal behavior, a criminal record alone does not warrant scoring this item 'Yes.' Look for indicators that the offender enjoys engaging in behavior that is risky physically, emotionally, financially (e.g., gambling), or otherwise carries a high potential for harm to the offender. If the offender reports only an occasional risky behavior, this item should be marked 'No.'

9. *Do people close to you know how to make you angry or intentionally push your buttons?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she is angered easily and quickly and/or reports feeling targeted or antagonized into anger frequently or easily, particularly by people who know him or her. If the offender reports those close to him or her know how to 'push my buttons' and that the offender responds with anger, this item should be scored 'Yes.' If the offender reports rarely responding to antagonism with anger, this item should be scored 'No.'

10. *Do some individuals just ask for trouble or problems?*

- Score this item 'Yes' if the offender reports that he or she thinks that people who are victimized (either by the offender or others) share some responsibility for their victimization. Indicators may include the offender saying that a person was 'asking for it' or that the victim 'deserved what they got' in terms of victimization. This can include personal as well as property victimization. Assess this item on the offender's overall view of victimization, not just isolated incidents. If the offender expresses empathy for victims in general, score this item 'No.'

11. *Do you find it easier to give up or ignore a problem rather than deal with it?*

- This item should be scored 'Yes' if the offender indicates that one of his or her primary coping skills for difficult situations is to give up or deny that a problem exists. If the offender reports that he or she

avoids dealing with difficult situations (e.g., bills that the offender cannot afford to pay, problems with people in the offender's life, deadlines at work), this item should be scored 'Yes.' Assess this question on how the offender deals with problems across all areas of his or her life. If walking away from or ignoring problems is typical for this person, score this item 'Yes.' If the offender reports that he or she would rather deal with problems when the problem comes up and this behavior seems consistent, this item should be scored 'No.'

Completing the Needs - Q

Once you finish each section of the Needs - Q, review the information to ensure that each question was marked 'Yes' or 'No'. OffenderTrak should have added up the total number of 'Yes' responses and generated a sum for each criminogenic needs section and the total number of 'Yes' responses overall. Using the table below, you should find that each section responses match with this table. Please check OffenderTrak to make sure that the total number of 'Yes' responses matches for each section and for the total number of 'Yes' responses overall. The number of 'Yes' responses should not exceed the total maximum for each section or overall. Simply put, you should not see a total of more than 41 'Yes' responses for the total Needs - Q.

Needs – Q Total

Needs – Q Total	Total Yes
Employment/Education (Total possible = 7)	
Substance Abuse (Total possible = 8)	
Attitudes (Total possible = 6)	
Relationships (Total possible = 9)	
Personality (Total possible = 11)	
Total (Total possible = 41)	

Mississippi Department of Corrections
Community Risk Assessment and Criminogenic Needs Questionnaire

5/17/2017

Part I

Community Risk Factors and Weights

Offender Information

Offender Name: [REDACTED]

Date:

MDOC# [REDACTED]

Custody Status: [REDACTED]

Assessment Items

1. Age measured as age at supervision start

27 and older

0

27 and younger

1

[1]

Comment [REDACTED]

2. Gang Involvement measured as the offender having known involvement

No involvement

0

self reported involvement

0

Gang involvement

1

[1]

Comment [REDACTED]

3. Total number of current felonies on **current cause** at start of supervision

One at time of supervision

0

Two at time of supervision

1

Three or more at time of supervision

2

[2]

Comment [REDACTED]

4. Number of total prior incarcerations

Zero prior incarcerations

0

Prior incarcerations from other jurisdictions

0

One prior incarceration

1

Two or more prior incarcerations

2

[1]

Comment [REDACTED]

5. Institutional Violations measured as any in the offender's history

No institutional violations

0

At least one institutional violations

1

[1]

Comment [REDACTED]

Total Score

[6]

Overall Risk Level

Low risk (0-1)

Moderate risk (2-3)

High risk (4-7)

Results:

[High]

Mississippi Department of Corrections
Community Risk Assessment and Criminogenic Needs Questionnaire

5/17/2017

Part II

Criminogenic Needs Questionnaire

(Needs Q)

Offender Information

Offender Name: [redacted] MDOC# [redacted]

Custody Status: [redacted]

Current Risk Assessment Score:

Current Risk Level:

Self report: Age at first arrest (in years):

Employment/Education:

- 1. Are you currently unemployed, or unemployed prior to incarceration?
- 2. Have you ever been fired from a job?
- 3. Have most of your jobs been for less than a year?
- 4. Were you unable to graduate from high school or obtain a GED
- 5, Were you ever suspended or expelled from school?
- 6. Have you typically had poor relationships with supervisors, fellow workers, teachers or fellow students?
- 7. Would your most recent job supervisor or most recent teacher say your work performance was poor or you had difficulty getting along with others?

Yes=1 No=0

Total number of yes responses

0

Comments:

Substance Abuse

- 1. Do you have a history of alcohol abuse or problems with alcohol?
- 2. Do you have a history of drug abuse or problems with drugs?
- 3. Do you have family or friends who have alcohol or drug problems?
- 4. Have drugs or alcohol caused problems with your jobs or school?
- 5. Have drugs or alcohol caused problems with any relationships?
- 6. Have you been in trouble with the law for drugs or alcohol?
- 7. Have you ever participated in treatment for drugs or alcohol?
- 8. Do you believe drugs or alcohol area current problem?

Yes=1 No=0

Total number of Yes responses

0

Comments:

Attitudes

- 1. Do you believe that most people get in trouble with the law?
- 2. Do you believe that your trouble with the law is due to bad luck or misunderstanding?
- 3. Do you believe the police and court treated you unfairly?

Yes=1 No=0

Mississippi Department of Corrections
Community Risk Assessment and Criminogenic Needs Questionnaire

5/17/2017

- 4. Was your sentence on the current case unfair?
- 5. Did the police or court make a bigger deal out of your case than necessary?
- 6. Should the law focus more time on other crimes instead of the crime you were convicted of?

Total number of Yes responses

Comments:

Relationships

Yes=1 No=0

- 1. Do you have family members who have been in trouble with the law?
- 2. Do you have at least one close friend that has been in trouble with the law?
- 3. Have you participated in activities with family or friends that could get you in trouble with the law?
- 4. Have family members ever been upset with you for being in trouble with the law?
- 5. Have close friends ever been upset with you for being in trouble with the law?
- 6. Have the majority of your friends or associates been in trouble with the law?
- 7. Do your family members, who have not been in trouble with the law, avoid seeing or talking with you?
- 8. Is it hard to have a close relationship with family or friends who have not been in trouble with the law?
- 9. Do you spend the majority of your free time with others who have been in trouble with the law?

Total number of Yes responses

Comments:

Personality

Yes=1 No=0

- 1. Do you often do things without thinking?
- 2. Do you often act immediately to situations that are stressful?
- 3. Is it hard to pay attention?
- 4. Do you try new things because you only live once?
- 5. Do you feel that sometimes you are not in control?
- 6. Do you respond to many situations in an angry manner?
- 7. Is it hard to be calm when you are stressed or upset?
- 8. Do you enjoy taking risks?
- 9. Do people close to you know how to make you angry or intentionally push your buttons?

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Community Risk Assessment and Criminogenic Needs Questionnaire

5/17/2017

10. Do some individuals just ask for trouble or problems?

11. Do you find it easier to give up or ignore a problem rather than deal with it?

Total number of Yes responses

Comments:

Needs Q Total

Employment/Education (total possible 7)

Substance Abuse (total possible 8)

Attitudes (total possible 6)

Relationships (total possible 9)

Personality (total possible 11)

Total (total possible 41)