

ROSAC

Risk of Sexual Abuse of Children

Structured Professional Guidelines for Assessing the Risk a Sexual Abuser Poses to a Child and Making Contact Decisions

A Brief Overview

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Overview

The ROSAC is a 30-item structured professional guide for assessing an adult male sexual abuser's risk to sexually abuse a specific child and under what circumstances, if any, the abuser might safely be allowed contact with the child.



ROSAC assessments involve weighing the risks of:



- harm of sexual abuse,
- harm of separating a child from adults to whom the child may be attached, and
- harm of infringing on the rights of individuals to live their lives without undo government interference.

Who can use the ROSAC?

The ROSAC can be scored and used by:

- child protective services (CPS) professionals,
- probation and parole officers,
- mental health providers, and
- victim advocates.

Ideally, a collaborative team of professionals score and use the ROSAC together.

What are some examples of cases in which the ROSAC can be used?

- A CPS agency is investigating a report that an individual who had previously been substantiated for sexually abusing a child is now living with a family that has children.
- A probation officer must determine whether to grant a sex offender's request to live in a home with children.
- A team of professionals are collaborating to determine whether to reunite a family in which the father sexually abused one of his children.

What are the six structured steps for administering the ROSAC?

1. Screen – make sure case is appropriate for ROSAC
2. Collect data – Worksheets provided
3. Code the data – use Coding Sheet
4. Weigh the relevance of risk and protective factors
5. Make a risk determination
 - No clear present risk of sexual harm. May monitor.
 - Some risk. Restrict contact and develop safety plan.
 - Significant risk. Prohibit all contact.
6. Develop a safety plan

What are the benefits of a structured approach?

- Recognizes that the accuracy of structured assessment methods are superior to unstructured ones
- Provides consistency and thoroughness
- Ensures that you won't forget anything
- Saves time by having all of the information organized in one place
- Provides documentation to support decisions

How are items scored?

- The ROSAC manual contains item definitions and scoring criteria using a 3-point scale.
 - 0 = Risk factor is not present
 - 1 = Risk factor is partially present
 - 2 = Risk factor is present
- Scores are not added up. There is not a total score.
- Users use their professionals judgment to weigh the relevance of each item and render a judgment in each case.

How are the 30 ROSAC risk items organized?



What are the ROSAC Items? Abuser Considerations

Sexual Abuser History	
1. Prior sex offenses	11. Cooperation
2. Prior risk instruments	Criminal History
3. Years sex offense free	12. Sentencing dates
4. Sexual interests	13. Non-sex violence
5. Duration sex offending	14. Supervision History
6. Intrusiveness	Lifestyle Stability
7. Use of force	15. Residence
8. Victim harm	16. Employment
9. Treatment history	17. Substance abuse
10. Offense responsibility	18. Mental health
	19. Relationship history

What are the ROSAC Items? Child at Risk and Primary Caregiver Considerations

Child at Risk	Primary Caregiver
20. Contact with abuser	25. Cooperative
21. Gender	26. Aware of abuser's risk
22. Age	27. Child caregiver history
23. Past victimization	28. Support network
24. Disabilities	29. Willing/able to protect
Other Considerations	
30. Other considerations not accounted for by other items	

What are the recommended ROSAC risk determinations?

