ROSAC

Risk of Sexual Abuse of Children

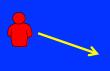
Structured Professional Guidelines for Assessing the Risk a Sexual Abuser Poses to a Child and Making Contact Decisions

A Brief Overview

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Overview 0-item structured program adult male sexu

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 <u>sexual abuse</u>,
- harm of <u>separating</u> 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 <u>undo</u> 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.

