

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH: ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION TOOLS

This document serves as a primer to judicial officers and justice system professionals who want to better understand the various tools and resources related to a juvenile’s mental health care and treatment. It can be referenced when discerning what type of assessment and evaluation tool might be more appropriate than another. In addition to this document, we encourage judicial officers and justice system professionals to utilize the [*Judges’ Guide to Juvenile Mental Health Jargon*](#).

Type of test	Type of medical provider required to administer test	Who should be contacted to administer test?	Can this be administered by IDOC staff?	Can be requested when seeking the following information
Intake Assessment	Licensed Therapist	If not in IDOC, contact a provider in the community.	Yes. Often referred to by IDOC as “Diagnostic & Evaluation.”	Diagnostic impression and treatment recommendations including ongoing case management, treatment planning, and counseling.
Psychological Testing/Evaluation	Psychologist (Ph.D. or Psy.D.)	Contact a provider in the community.	No.	Clarification and recommendations around mental functioning, i.e. intellectual or developmental disability, personality concerns, etc. Results can take months to produce.
Psychiatric Evaluation	Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Psychiatrist	If not in IDOC, contact a provider in the community.	Yes. Often referred to by IDOC as “medication evaluation.”	The need for psychotropic medication.

NOTE: If an assessment and/or evaluation has been completed within the last eighteen (18) months, and recommendations have been evaluated and implemented, it is unlikely that anything different will be completed unless there has been a substantial change in the youth’s behavior, mental or physical health, or circumstances.