Fire Setting Module (10)

Question to Consider for this Module: What are the issues and risks related to the individual's fire setting behaviors? **Please rate the most recent fire setting incident, unless otherwise noted.**

SERIOUSNESS - This item rates the severity of the fires being set.

Questions to Consider

- → Has the fire setting caused damage to property or injury to people?
- → Where has the fire setting occurred?

Ratings & Definitions

- Individual has engaged in fire setting that resulted in only minor damage (e.g. camp fire in the back yard which scorched some lawn).
- Individual has engaged in fire setting that resulted only in some property damage that required repair.
- 2 Individual has engaged in fire setting, which caused significant damage to property (e.g. burned down house).
- Individual has engaged in fire setting that injured self or others.

HISTORY - This item rates the frequency with which the individual has engaged in fire setting. Please rate using time frames provided in the definitions.

Questions to Consider

- → How often has the individual engaged in fire setting?
- → Has the individual had time periods in which s/he did not set fires?

Ratings & Definitions

- **0** Only one known occurrence of fire setting behavior.
- 1 Individual has engaged in multiple acts of fire setting in the past year.
 - Individual has engaged in multiple acts of fire setting for more than one year but has had periods of at least 6 months where s/he did not engage in fire
- **2** but has had periods of at least 6 months where s/he did not engage in fire setting behavior.
- Individual has engaged in multiple acts of fire setting for more than one year without any period of at least 3 months where s/he did not engage in fire setting behavior.

ARRESTS - This item rates the individual's history of arrests in the juvenile justice sector.

Questions to Consider

→ Has the individual been arrested? If so, how often? When?

Ratings & Definitions

- **0** Individual has no known arrests in past.
- 1 Individual has history of delinquency, but no arrests past 30 days.
- 2 Individual has 1 to 2 arrests in last 30 days.
- Individual has more than 2 arrests in last 30 days.

PLANNING - This item rates the premeditation level of the fire setting.

Questions to Consider

→ Is the individual's fire setting typically planned or impulsive?

Ratings & Definitions

- No evidence of any planning. Fire setting behavior appears opportunistic or impulsive.
- Evidence suggests that individual places him/herself into situations where the likelihood of fire setting behavior is enhanced.
- **2** Evidence of some planning of fire setting behavior.
- 3 Considerable evidence of significant planning of fire setting behavior. Behavior is clearly premeditated.

USE OF ACCELERANTS - This item rates the individual based on the accelerants used in the fire setting.

Questions to Consider

- → Does the individual use gasoline, alcohol, etc. to increase the fire's intensity?
- → Does the individual use paper, sticks or other physical items to increase the size of the fire?

Ratings & Definitions

- No evidence of any use of accelerants (e.g., gasoline). Fire setting involved only starters such as matches or a lighter.
- Evidence suggests that the fire setting involved some use of mild accelerants (e.g. sticks, paper) but no use of liquid accelerants.
- Evidence that fire setting involved the use of a limited amount of liquid accelerants but that some care was taken to limit the size of the fire.
- Considerable evidence of significant use of accelerants in an effort to secure a very large and dangerous fire.

INTENTION TO HARM - This item rates the individual's indentation to harm others though fire setting.

Questions to Consider

- → Does the individual consider safety when setting the fires?
- → Is there an intention to scare, injure or kill others with the fire?

Ratings & Definitions

- Individual did not intend to harm others with fire. S/he took efforts to maintain some safety.
- 1 Individual did not intend to harm others but took no efforts to maintain safety.
- 2 Individual intended to seek revenge or scare others but did not intend physical harm, only intimidation.
- Individual intended to injure or kill others.

COMMUNITY SAFETY - This item rates the risk to the community due to the fire setting. Please rate highest level in the past 30 days.

Questions to Consider

- → Does the fire setting pose a significant safety risk to the community at large?
- → Are individuals at physical harm due to the fire setting?

Ratings & Definitions

- **o** Individual presents no risk to the community. S/he could be unsupervised in the community.
- 1 Individual engages in fire setting behavior that represents a risk to community property.
- Individual engages in fire setting behavior that places community residents in
- 2 some danger of physical harm. This danger may be an indirect effect of the individual's behavior.
- Individual engages in fire setting behavior that intentionally places community members in danger of significant physical harm. Child attempts to use fires to hurt others.

RESPONSE TO ACCUSATION - This item rates the response and remorse of the individual when accused of setting a fire. Please rate highest level in the past 30 days.

Questions to Consider

- → Is the individual sorry for setting fires?
- → Does the individual admit to setting fires?

Ratings & Definitions

- **0** Individual admits to behavior and expresses remorse and desire to not repeat.
- 1 Individual partially admits to behaviors and expresses some remorse.
- 2 Individual admits to behavior but does not express remorse.
- 3 Individual neither admits to behavior nor expresses remorse. Individual is in complete denial.

REMORSE -This item is used to rate the level of remorse and responsibility felt by the individual. Please rate highest level in the past 30 days.

Questions to Consider

→ Does the individual express remorse for any harm caused by fire setting or accept responsibility?

Ratings & Definitions

- Individual accepts responsibility for behavior and is truly sorry for any damage/risk caused. Individual is able to apologize directly to effected people.
- Individual accepts responsibility for behavior and appears to be sorry for any damage/risk caused. However, individual is unable or unwilling to apologize to effected people.
 - Individual accepts some responsibility for behavior but also blames others.
- 2 May experience sorrow at being caught or receiving consequences. May express sorrow/remorse but only in an attempt to reduce consequences.
- 3 Individual accepts no responsibility and does not appear to experience any remorse.

LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE FIRE SETTING - This item rates the chance that the individual will continue to set fires in the future. Please rate highest level in the past 30 days.

Questions to Consider

- → Does the individual have control over fire setting behaviors?
- → How much monitoring is required to ensure that no fires are set?

Ratings & Definitions

- Individual is unlikely to set fires in the future. Child able and willing to exert self-control over fire setting.
- 1 Individual presents mild to moderate risk of fire setting in the future. Should be monitored but does not require ongoing treatment/intervention.
- 2 Individual remains at risk of fire setting if left unsupervised. Individual struggles with self-control.
- Individual presents a real and present danger of fire setting in the immediate future. Individual unable or unwilling to exert self-control over fire setting behavior.