

# Ohio Risk Assessment System: Community Supervision Tool (ORAS – CST) Interview Guide

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## Conducting the Interview

The interview guide is designed to assist the assessor in gathering the information necessary to accurately assess the offender. It is important to establish rapport with the offender. While it is recommended that the interview guide be closely followed, the wording of the questions may vary. Here are some tips for conducting the interview:

- Conduct the interview in a relaxed and private environment
- Explain the purpose of the interview and stress the need for honesty and complete answers to questions
- Do not hesitate to use follow-up questions and probe. Examples of follow-up questions:
  - Tell me more. I want to be certain that I understand you.
  - What happened next?
  - Could you explain that further?
  - What do you mean?
  - Can you describe some examples?
  - How did that make you feel?
- Remember what information you are trying to obtain. Develop clear examples and remember there are sometimes differences in perception.
- Remember that the interviewer sets the tone. Be patient and try not to correct or teach
- Whenever possible use open-ended questions where the respondent provides his or her opinion and is able to elaborate. For example, “Tell me more about your relationship with....”
- Avoid double-barreled questions where the respondent is asked a combination of questions:
  - “How is your relationship with your mother and father?”
- Avoid biased questions where the respondent is led in a certain direction:
  - “Your relationship with your mother isn’t bad, is it?”

Also remember that the interview is only one source of information. Official records, the self-report questionnaire, and collateral sources such as family members or other professionals should also be consulted. It is important that to corroborate the offenders’ responses whenever possible.

## **SECTION 1: GENERAL RISK/NEED DOMAINS**

### **1.0 Criminal History**

*The first section of the interview is designed to gather information necessary to score the **Criminal History** domain of the tool. While some of this information can be obtained from official records, it is still recommended that the assessor ask the offender about the current offense and past criminal behavior. This information will help score other areas of the assessment, particularly the **Peers and Criminal Thinking and Behavioral Patterns** sections. It is important to corroborate self-report information in this area with official records.*

*The following items are scored in this area:*

**1.1 Most Serious Arrest Under Age 18:**

0=None

1=Yes, Misdemeanor

2=Yes, Felony

**1.2 Number of Prior Adult Felony Convictions:**

0=None

1=One or Two

2=Three or more

**1.3 Prior Sentence as an Adult to a Jail or Secure Correctional Facility:**

0=No

1=Yes

**1.4 Received Official Misconduct while Incarcerated:**

0=No

1=Yes

**1.5 Prior Sentence to Probation as an Adult:**

0=No

1=Yes

**1.6 Community Supervision Ever Been Revoked for Technical Violation as an Adult:**

0=No

1=Yes

*Questions for Criminal History Domain:*

1a. Tell me about the first time you were ever arrested? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1b. How old were you when you were first arrested? \_\_\_\_\_

1c. What was it for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*I want to now ask you about your criminal record as an adult.*

1d. Tell me about what happened the day you were arrested. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1e. Why did you decide to commit the offense? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1f. What part did others play in the offense? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1g. What part did drugs or alcohol play? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1h. Did you threaten or hurt anyone? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1i. How many times have you been convicted of a felony? \_\_\_\_\_

1j. Have you ever gotten in trouble for fighting or assaultive type behavior?  No  Yes

1k. How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

1l. What happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1m. Have you ever been sentenced to jail?  No  Yes      How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

1n. Have you ever been sentenced to prison?  No  Yes      How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

1o. Have you ever been sentenced to another type of secure correctional facility like a CBCF?

No  Yes

How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

1p. While you were incarcerated did you ever get written up or punished for misconduct?

No  Yes.      How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

What was it for?      (Probe to see if any misconducts were for violence)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1q. What was the result of the misconduct? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1r. How did you feel about the sanction you received? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1s. Have you ever been on probation?  No  Yes      How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

1t. What were you on probation for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1u. Did you complete probation supervision?  No  Yes

1v. Have you ever been on parole?  No  Yes

1w. Did you complete parole supervision?  No  Yes

1x. What was the hardest part of being on supervision? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1y. Have you ever had probation or parole supervision revoked for a technical violation?

No  Yes      How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2.0 Education, Employment, and Financial Situation

*This domain is designed to gather information about the offender's educational attainment, employment, and current financial situation. It is fairly straightforward and most respondents will be forthcoming.*

*The following items are scored in this area:*

2.1 Highest Education:

0=High School Grad or Higher

1=Less than High School or GED

2.2 Ever Suspended or Expelled From School:

0=No

1=Yes

2.3. Employed at the Time of Arrest:

0=Yes

1=No

2.4 Currently Employed:

0=Yes, Full-time, Disabled, or Retired

1=Not Employed or Employed Part-time

2.5 Better Use of Time:

0=No, Most Time Structured

1=Yes, Lots of Free Time

2.6 Current Financial Situation:

0=Good

1=Poor

***Questions for Education, Employment, and Financial Situation Domain:***

*I would now like to talk with you about your education, employment and financial situation:*

2a. What is the highest grade you completed? \_\_\_\_\_ Did you graduate? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes

Did you get a GED? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes

2b. Were you ever in any special education classes? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes

2c. Tell me about problems you might have had in school? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2d. Were you ever suspended or expelled from school?  No  Yes  
What happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2e. Were you working at the time of your arrest?  No  Yes  
What were you doing? \_\_\_\_\_

2f. Are you currently employed?  Yes  Full time  Part Time  Seasonal  No  
If no, why not: \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you work? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you had this job? \_\_\_\_\_

2g. If no, how do you support yourself while not working? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2h. How many hours a week do you work?  Year around or seasonal?  Yearly  Seasonal

If not employed, find out why. \_\_\_\_\_

2i. How do you get along with your co-workers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2j. How do you get along with your boss? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2k. Walk me through a typical day for you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a lot of free time? \_\_\_\_\_

How much free time would you estimate you have each week? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Probe to make sure structured time is prosocial and not just hanging out.)

2l. What percentage of your week would you say is free time: \_\_\_\_\_ %

2m. Tell me about your current financial status. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2n. What are your sources of income? \_\_\_\_\_



3.4 Level of Satisfaction with Current Level of Support from Family or Others:

0=Very Satisfied

1=Not Satisfied

3.5 Stability of Residence:

0=Stable

1=Not Stable

***Questions for Family and Social Support Domain:***

*I now want to talk with you about your family and the support you get from them.*

3a. Describe your relationship with your family? (Probe to determine if parents (both biological and step parents are still alive and how much contact they have with them). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3b. Who raised you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3c. How often do you get together with them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3d. How do they feel about you getting in trouble with the law? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3e. Has your trouble with the law changed your relationship with your family? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3f. Does anyone in your family have a criminal record? \_\_ No \_\_ Yes

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

What was it for? \_\_\_\_\_

When was the last time you saw them? \_\_\_\_\_

3g. Now let me ask you about your current marital situation. Are you married?  No  Yes

Are you involved with anyone? Probe to determine if it is a casual relationship or a significant other. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3h. Describe your relationship with your partner? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you get along? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you resolve disagreements? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3i. In this relationship, have you experienced physical, psychological, or sexual abuse?

\_\_\_\_\_

Whether involved or single, ask how satisfied the offender is with his/her current situation. \_\_\_\_\_

3j. Do you have a supportive relationship with your family? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Close friends? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3k. In terms of your family, spouse, and close friends, how would you rate the emotional and personal support you received from them:

Very Strong Support  Strong Support  Ok Support  Weak Support  No Support

3l. How satisfied are you with current level of support you have received from your family or close friends?

Very Satisfied  Satisfied  Somewhat Satisfied  Not Satisfied

3m. If the offender is not living with family or significant other, ask them who they currently live with. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4.0 Neighborhood Problems

*This next domain is very short and asks about the neighborhood that the offender lives in. High crime neighborhoods and places where drugs are readily available often increase the opportunity for an offender to engage in criminal behavior.*

*The following items are scored in this area:*

4.1 High Crime Area:

0=No

1=Yes

4.2 Drugs Readily Available in Neighborhood:

0=No, Generally Not Available

1=Yes, Somewhat Available

2=Yes, Easily Available

***Questions for Neighborhood Problems Domain:***

*I would now like to talk with you about where you live.*

4a. How long have you lived at your current address? \_\_\_\_\_

4b. How many times have you moved in the past year (do not count incarcerations)? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the reasons for the moves? (Probe to determine stability of current living situation.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4c. Tell me about the neighborhood you live in. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4d. Tell me about the kinds of crimes happening in your neighborhood. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are police there frequently? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel safe? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you rate your neighborhood?

\_\_ High Crime \_\_ Moderate Crime \_\_ Some but no more than most \_\_ Little crime

Are drugs readily available in your neighborhood?

\_\_\_ Generally not available \_\_\_ Somewhat available \_\_\_ Easily available

## 5.0 Substance Use

*The substance use section examines the occurrence of substance use in the offender's life and the extent to which its use has caused problems across varying aspects of the offender's life. Substance use can be pervasive in its ability to influence multiple aspects of a person's life including involvement with the legal system, issues with loved ones and friends, health and social service problems, and its interaction with seeking or maintaining employment. For this domain alcohol and drug use are separated.*

*The following items are scored in this area:*

5.1 Age First Began Regularly Using Alcohol:

0=17 or older

1=Under Age 17

5.2 Longest Period of Abstinence from Alcohol:

0= Six Months or Longer

1=Less than Six Months

5.3 Ever Used Illegal Drugs:

0 = No

1 = Yes

5.4 Drug Use Caused Problems:

0=Never

1=Past

2= Current

5.5 Drug Use Caused Problems with Employment:

0=No

1=Yes

### *Questions for Substance Abuse Domain:*

*Let's talk about your substance use.*

5a. Have you ever had a problem with alcohol? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes

5b. When did you first start to regularly drink? \_\_\_\_\_

5c. Describe your drinking habits. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the longest period you have abstained from drinking? \_\_\_\_\_

How long has it been since you last drank? \_\_\_\_\_

5d. Have you ever been in treatment for alcohol use? \_\_\_\_\_

5e. Have you ever had a problem with drugs other than alcohol? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes

5f. Describe your drug use in the past. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5g. How often did you use? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What drugs? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you use alone or with others? \_\_\_\_\_

5h. Have you ever had any problems due to your drug use (Social, family, legal, employment, family, etc.)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

5i. Has your drug use ever caused you problems with a job? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes  
What happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5j. Have you ever been in treatment for drug use? \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5k. If drugs or alcohol are a problem ask the offender if they are willing to consider going to a program. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 6.0 Peer Associations

*This domain is designed to examine the peer association of the offender, how much contact they have, and how much the offender engages in criminal activities. Friends can have a strong influence over offenders, and it is important to determine the degree to which their friends are involved in criminal behavior.*

***The Following Items are Scored in this Domain:***

### 6.1 Criminal Friends:

- 0=None
- 1=Some
- 2=Majority

### 6.2 Contact with Criminal Peers:

- 0=No Contact with Criminal Peers
- 1=At Risk of Contacting Criminal Peers
- 2=Contact or Actively Seeks out Criminal Peers

### 6.3 Gang Membership:

- 0=No, Never
- 1=Yes, but Not Current
- 2=Yes, Current

### 6.4 Criminal Activities:

- 0=Strong Identification with Prosocial Activities
- 1=Mixture of Pro- and Antisocial Activities
- 2=Strong Identification with Criminal Activities

***Question for the Peers Domain:***

*I now want to ask you about your friends.*

6a. How many close friends would you say you have? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How often do you see them? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6b. Was anyone else involved in the current offense?     \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes

If yes explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is your current relationship with them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6c. Have any of your close friends been involved in criminal behavior? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What percentage of your close friends have been in trouble with the law? \_\_\_\_\_ %

What kind of things have they been involved in? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6d. What are some the activities you like to do with your family and friends? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Now I want you to think of other friends, not necessarily close ones, but more like acquaintances. These are people you see and hang out with occasionally.*

6e. How many of your acquaintances have been in trouble with the law? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What kind of activities have they been involved in? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How often do you have contact with them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6f. Have you ever been in a gang?      \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes

When? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in one now?      \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Yes

If yes probe for more information: \_\_\_\_\_

6g. Do you have any hobbies or interests? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you belong to any groups or clubs? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you go to church? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Probe to find out degree to which the offender is involved in prosocial activities.)

## 7.0 Criminal Attitudes And Behavioral Patterns

*This domain addresses the criminal attitudes of the offender as well as some behavioral patterns that can often lead to criminal behavior. In addition to the specific questions for this item, the interviewer should score this item from the totality of the responses in the interview. Listen for rationalizations, minimizations, and justifications of behavior throughout the interview.*

*The Following Items are Scored for this Domain:*

### 7.1 Criminal Pride:

- 0=No Pride in Criminal Behavior
- 1=Some Pride
- 2=A Lot of Pride

### 7.2 Expresses Concern about Others:

- 0=Concerned About Others
- 1=Limited Concern
- 2=No real Concern for Others

### 7.3 Feels Lack of Control Over Events:

- 0=Controls Events
- 1=Sometimes Lacks Control
- 2=Generally Lacks Control

### 7.4 Sees No Problem in Telling Lies:

- 0=No
- 1=Yes

### 7.5 Engages in Risk Taking Behavior:

- 0=Rarely Takes Risks
- 1=Sometimes Takes Risks
- 2=Generally Takes Risks

### 7.6 Walks Away from a Fight:

- 0=Yes
- 1=Sometimes
- 2=Rarely

7.7 Believes in "Do Unto Others Before They Do Unto You":

0=Disagree

1=Sometimes

2=Agrees

***Questions for the Criminal Attitudes and Behavioral Patterns Domain:***

*Let's talk again about the trouble you got in.*

7a. How do you feel about what happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think about crime? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tell me about the victims? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do you think they feel about what you did? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ No pride in criminal behavior \_\_\_ Some pride \_\_\_ A lot of pride

7b. As a general rule do you worry about other people's problems? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Concerned about others \_\_\_ Some concern \_\_\_ No real concern for others

*Now I want you to think about how things have been going for you recently.*

7c. Do you sometimes feel that you have lost control over events in your life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Feels in Control over Events \_\_\_ Sometimes lacks control \_\_\_ Generally lacks control

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Now let me ask you about honesty.*

7d. Do you think it is sometimes ok to tell a lie? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Under what circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Never \_\_\_ only small white lies \_\_\_ Yes it is ok

7e. A lot of people like to take chances and risks. Do you consider yourself to be a risk taker?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How about when you committed your offense? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did it make you feel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If I asked you to rate yourself as a risk taker on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 being not at all, and 5 being often how would you rate yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

7f. Would you describe yourself as someone who "Walks Away from a fight", or "Tries to avoid it but it seems to find you" or, "first one in"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If I asked you to rate yourself on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 being "walks away", and 5 being "first one in" how would you rate yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

7g. Have you ever heard the saying, "Do Unto Others Before They Do Unto You"? In general do you:

\_\_\_ Disagree with statement, \_\_\_ depends on the situation, or \_\_\_ Agree with statement

7h. How do you feel about getting some help or participating in programs? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION 2: RESPONSIVITY ASSESSMENT

Considering the entire interview as well as official records, the next section is designed to identify special considerations or responsivity factors that might affect the offender's engagement in supervision or programming. For each of the following areas check the boxes that best describes the offender for each of these items.

Low Intelligence\*

Physical Handicap (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Reading or Writing significantly below normal\*

Mental Health Issues (list diagnoses\*) \_\_\_\_\_

Motivation is a Problem\* (No Desire to Change/Participate in Programs)

Note, some offenders will be motivated to obtain help in some areas but not others. For example, they may want assistance in getting a job, but are not willing to go to substance abuse treatment. This can be important for case planning. Please provide information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Transportation is a problem

Child Care is a problem

Language is a problem. List offender's native language: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity or cultural barriers. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

History of Abuse/Neglect poses a barrier for offender. Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Interpersonal Anxiousness (offender is very nervous and may require program with little confrontation)

Other, Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*If these items are checked it is strongly recommended that further assessment be conducted to determine level or severity.*

**SELF-REPORT SURVEY – COMMUNITY SUPERVISION ASSESSMENT TOOL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*The following questions ask about several things in your life, such as education, employment, family, friends, and your beliefs. Please answer the following questions the best you can. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. Some questions will be simple yes/no questions, and others will ask you to circle a number which corresponds to how much that statement reflects your beliefs or is "true" for you.*

1. Highest Education

- Less than 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
- High School Graduate
- GED
- College

2. In school were you ever suspended or expelled? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. How long have you lived at your current address? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many address changes have you had in the past 12 months (do not count incarceration)? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the age that you first began regularly using alcohol? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How long has it been since you last drank alcohol? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the longest period of time you have abstained from drinking? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What percent of your close friends have been in trouble with the law? \_\_\_\_\_%

9. Would you say that you live in a "high crime" neighborhood? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

10. Were you employed at the time of your arrest? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

11. If yes, how many hours per week did you work? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Are you currently employed?

- Full-time
- Part-time
- No, I am on disability
- No, I am retired
- No, not currently employed

13. In your opinion, do you have a lot of free time? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

14. On average, approximately what percent of your week is considered free time? \_\_\_\_\_%

