

# Moran Juvenile Sexual Predation Checklist (MJSPC™) Manual

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## Section 1: Introduction

### Purpose of the MJSPC™

The Moran Juvenile Sexual Predation Checklist (MJSPC™) is a structured professional judgment (SPJ) instrument designed to assess the risk of persistent, predatory sexual behavior among adolescents aged 12–17. The tool was developed to address limitations in existing juvenile risk assessment instruments, particularly the lack of integration between affective traits, behavioral dysregulation, sexual deviance, and environmental context.

The MJSPC™ is intended to support forensic, clinical, and juvenile justice professionals in making informed decisions regarding:

- Risk management
- Treatment planning
- Supervision levels
- Case conceptualization

### Guiding Principles

1. **Developmental Sensitivity**  
Adolescent behavior is dynamic and must be interpreted within developmental context.
2. **Multidimensional Assessment**  
Risk emerges from the interaction of personality, behavior, sexual patterns, and environment.

### 3. **Structured Professional Judgment**

The MJSPC™ provides structure without eliminating clinical judgment.

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## **Section 2: Administration and Scoring**

### **Required Qualifications**

The MJSPC™ should be administered by:

- Licensed psychologists
- Forensic evaluators
- Clinicians with training in adolescent behavioral assessment

### **Data Sources**

Scoring must be based on multiple sources:

- Clinical interviews
- Collateral interviews (family, staff)
- Official records (legal, school, treatment)
- Behavioral observations

### **Scoring Scale**

Each item is rated:

- **0 – Not Present**
- **1 – Partially Present / Inconsistent**
- **2 – Clearly Present / Persistent**

Ratings must reflect **patterned behavior**, not isolated incidents.

# Section 3: Item Scoring Anchors

## DOMAIN A: AFFECTIVE / INTERPERSONAL

### 1. Lack of Remorse

- 0: Expresses genuine remorse; accepts responsibility
- 1: Inconsistent remorse; may minimize behavior
- 2: No remorse; denies harm or blames victim

### 2. Callous Disregard

- 0: Demonstrates concern for others
- 1: Limited or situational concern
- 2: Indifference to harm caused

### 3. Shallow Affect

- 0: Normal emotional range
- 1: Constricted or inconsistent emotional expression
- 2: Markedly shallow or absent emotional response

### 4. Manipulative Behavior

- 0: No evidence of manipulation
- 1: Occasional manipulation
- 2: Persistent pattern of deceit/manipulation

### 5. Lack of Empathy

- 0: Demonstrates empathy
- 1: Limited empathy in some contexts
- 2: Consistent inability to understand others' feelings

# **DOMAIN B: BEHAVIORAL DYSREGULATION**

## **6. Impulsivity**

- 0: Age-appropriate impulse control
- 1: Occasional impulsivity
- 2: Chronic impulsivity across settings

## **7. Aggression**

- 0: No aggression
- 1: Occasional verbal/physical aggression
- 2: Frequent or severe aggression

## **8. Rule Violations**

- 0: Complies with rules
- 1: Occasional violations
- 2: Chronic disregard for rules

## **9. Poor Behavioral Controls**

- 0: Adequate regulation
- 1: Inconsistent control
- 2: Frequent loss of control

## **10. Escalation Pattern**

- 0: No escalation
- 1: Mild increase in severity/frequency
- 2: Clear escalation over time

# **DOMAIN C: SEXUAL DEVIANCE / PREDATORY PATTERNS**

## **11. Deviant Sexual Fantasies**

- 0: No evidence
- 1: Occasional or unclear
- 2: Persistent and recurrent

## **12. Coercion / Grooming**

- 0: No coercion
- 1: Isolated or opportunistic
- 2: Deliberate grooming or coercive pattern

## **13. Victim Targeting**

- 0: No pattern
- 1: Some preference emerging
- 2: Clear and repeated targeting pattern

## **14. Sexual Preoccupation**

- 0: Age-appropriate interest
- 1: Elevated but manageable
- 2: Persistent, intrusive preoccupation

## **15. Boundary Violations**

- 0: Respects boundaries
- 1: Occasional violations
- 2: Repeated or escalating violations

# **DOMAIN D: ENVIRONMENTAL / DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXT**

## **16. Trauma History**

- 0: No trauma
- 1: Suspected or limited trauma
- 2: Confirmed significant trauma

## **17. Family Dysfunction**

- 0: Stable environment
- 1: Moderate dysfunction
- 2: Severe instability or neglect

## **18. Peer Deviance**

- 0: Prosocial peers
- 1: Mixed peer group
- 2: Predominantly deviant peers

## **19. Sexual Exposure**

- 0: Age-appropriate exposure
- 1: Early or inappropriate exposure
- 2: Chronic exposure to explicit content

## **20. Lack of Supervision**

- 0: Adequate supervision
- 1: Inconsistent supervision
- 2: Chronic lack of oversight

# Section 4: Interpretation Guidelines

## Score Interpretation

- **Low Risk (0–13):** Likely situational behavior
- **Moderate Risk (14–26):** Mixed indicators; monitor closely
- **High Risk (27–40):** Elevated likelihood of persistent pattern

## Risk Formulation

The final assessment must include:

- Total score
- Domain-level analysis
- Identified risk drivers
- Protective factors
- Clinical judgment summary

# Section 5: Case Vignettes

## Case 1: Low Risk

### Profile:

14-year-old male, single incident involving peer of similar age, no prior history.

### Findings:

- Expresses remorse
- No deviant fantasies
- Strong family support

**MJSPC Score:** 8

**Interpretation:** Situational behavior, low likelihood of persistence

## Case 2: Moderate Risk

**Profile:**

15-year-old male with multiple boundary violations and impulsivity.

**Findings:**

- Inconsistent remorse
- Some coercive behavior
- Peer deviance present

**MJSPC Score:** 19

**Interpretation:** Mixed risk; requires structured intervention

## Case 3: High Risk

**Profile:**

16-year-old male with repeated offenses involving younger victims.

**Findings:**

- No remorse
- Clear grooming behavior
- Persistent deviant fantasies
- Severe family dysfunction

**MJSPC Score:** 33

**Interpretation:** High likelihood of persistent predatory behavior

## Section 6: Limitations

- Not a diagnostic instrument
- Requires trained evaluators
- Should not be used in isolation
- Limited validation data (pending study completion)

## Section 7: Ethical Considerations

- Avoid labeling adolescents as “predators”
- Use developmentally informed interpretation
- Ensure culturally competent application
- Maintain confidentiality and legal compliance

## Section 8: Future Directions

- Large-scale validation studies
- Cross-cultural adaptation
- Integration with digital scoring systems
- Training and certification development

## Final Note

This manual positions the **MJSPC™** at the level of a **professional forensic instrument**, suitable for:

- Dissertation defense
- Journal submission
- Field pilot testing
- Institutional adoption