

Moran Juvenile Sexual Predation Checklist (MJSPC™)

A Structured Professional Judgment Instrument for Assessing Sexual Predation Risk in Adolescents

Instrument Overview

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 integrates affective, behavioral, sexual, and environmental domains to provide a developmentally informed risk profile.

The MJSPC™ is not a diagnostic instrument. It is intended to support clinical and forensic decision-making when used alongside comprehensive evaluation procedures.

Theoretical Foundation

The MJSPC™ is grounded in three primary frameworks:

- Developmental psychopathology, emphasizing behavioral trajectories over static traits
- Social learning theory, focusing on learned patterns of coercion and reinforcement
- Neurodevelopmental models, particularly adolescent impulsivity and executive functioning deficits

Structure

- Total Items: 20
- Domains: 4
- Scoring Scale:
 - 0 = Not present
 - 1 = Partially present or inconsistent
 - 2 = Clearly present and persistent

Domains and Items

Domain A: Affective / Interpersonal Traits

1. Lack of remorse for sexually harmful behavior
2. Callous disregard for victim impact
3. Shallow or deficient emotional expression
4. Manipulative interpersonal style
5. Absence of empathy toward others

Domain B: Behavioral Dysregulation

6. Impulsivity
7. History of aggression (physical or verbal)
8. Chronic rule violations
9. Poor behavioral controls
10. Escalation in antisocial behavior

Domain C: Sexual Deviance / Predatory Patterns

11. Persistent deviant sexual fantasies
12. Use of coercion, grooming, or manipulation
13. Victim targeting specificity
14. Sexual preoccupation or compulsivity
15. Repeated boundary violations

Domain D: Environmental / Developmental Context

16. History of trauma or abuse
17. Family dysfunction or instability
18. Association with deviant peers
19. Early exposure to sexual content
20. Lack of supervision or structure

Scoring and Interpretation

Total Score Range: 0–40

- 0–13: Low Risk
Interpretation: Behavior is likely situational or developmentally transient
- 14–26: Moderate Risk
Interpretation: Mixed indicators; requires structured monitoring and intervention
- 27–40: High Risk
Interpretation: Elevated likelihood of persistent predatory behavior patterns

Structured Professional Judgment Override

The MJSPC™ includes a clinical override feature. Evaluators may adjust the final risk classification when:

- The numerical score does not adequately capture a clear predatory pattern
- Protective factors significantly mitigate risk
- Unique case variables require deviation from scoring thresholds

All overrides must be clearly documented and justified.

Administration Guidelines

- Intended Users: Forensic psychologists, licensed clinicians, juvenile justice professionals
- Administration Time: Approximately 20–30 minutes following case review
- Required Data Sources:
 - Clinical interviews
 - Collateral reports
 - Official records
 - Behavioral observations

Professional Scoring Sheet

Client ID: _____

Age: _____

Evaluator: _____

Date: _____

Affective / Interpersonal

- 0 1 2 Lack of remorse
- 0 1 2 Callousness
- 0 1 2 Shallow affect
- 0 1 2 Manipulation
- 0 1 2 Lack of empathy

Behavioral Dysregulation

- 0 1 2 Impulsivity
- 0 1 2 Aggression
- 0 1 2 Rule violations
- 0 1 2 Poor controls
- 0 1 2 Escalation

Sexual Deviance

- 0 1 2 Deviant fantasies
- 0 1 2 Coercion/grooming
- 0 1 2 Victim targeting
- 0 1 2 Preoccupation
- 0 1 2 Boundary violations

Environmental Context

- 0 1 2 Trauma
- 0 1 2 Family dysfunction
- 0 1 2 Peer deviance
- 0 1 2 Sexual exposure
- 0 1 2 Lack of supervision

Total Score: _____ / 40

Risk Level: Low / Moderate / High

Override Applied: Yes / No

Rationale:

Ethical and Legal Considerations

- The MJSPC™ must not be used as the sole basis for legal decisions
- It does not assign diagnostic labels
- Evaluations must consider developmental stage and contextual variables
- Use requires training in forensic assessment and adolescent development

Positioning for Dissertation and Publication

In Dissertation

- Chapter 3: Instrument development section
- Chapter 4: Factor structure and validation results
- Chapter 5: Implications for forensic practice

For Publication

Prepare a manuscript structured as:

- Introduction: Gap in juvenile sexual risk assessment
- Method: Instrument development and validation
- Results: Psychometric findings
- Discussion: Application and implications

Target journals include:

- Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment
- Criminal Justice and Behavior
- Journal of Interpersonal Violence

Next Development Steps

If you want to move this to the highest level of professional readiness, the next logical steps are:

1. Full MJSPC™ Manual (detailed item anchors, scoring examples, case studies)
2. Psychometric validation dataset design and coding framework
3. Examiner training protocol
4. Publication manuscript submission
5. Intellectual property protection (copyright and trademark)