



Case study activity - Mr Jones

Instructions

1. Read Mr Jones' case study below paying particular attention to potential risk and protective factors
2. Assess the risk scenario using the guide on the following page
3. Complete your risk assessment of Mr Jones and compare and contrast your results with others, and/or discuss your findings with a colleague, supervisor or mentor

Mr Jones

Mr Jones is a 33 year old non-Aboriginal man serving a 1 year prison sentence for burglary and domestic assault. The two index offences reflect different times and different antecedents. The burglary was committed for money to fund his lifestyle. He has a long history of property crimes and there is some suggestion that he was actively selling stolen electronic equipment. The domestic assault is his third such offence, all committed during drunken arguments with his wife. She has twice been hospitalized following his assaults and this was the most serious. She has returned to live with her mother.

His behaviour while imprisoned is deemed marginal at best. He has had numerous verbal altercations with both staff and other prisoners and is reported to have been involved in a number of gang activities in prison. He is argumentative and antagonistic towards essentially everyone. He did not get visits and refused programming, for both a violence program or to attend the drug treatment program. Mr Jones is not interested in attending a specialist cultural assessment. He has a moderate-high likelihood of serious re-offending within the next 5 years.

When presenting at his meeting with sentence management staff he was somewhat resistant and seemed in a hurry to simply get it over with. There is no evidence of overt mental health concerns (psychosis, depression, anxiety), but elements of antisocial behaviour were clearly noted (minimization of seriousness of charges, statements supportive of continued gang involvement, limited problem-solving skills, marginal self-regulation). When challenged regarding these observations he became antagonistic and entitled. He saw no reason why prison staff could or should tell him with whom he might associate. In terms of problem solving and impulse control, he is completely unable to see beyond his immediate needs. Regarding protective factors there appear to be few internal or external controls or supports that might reduce his likelihood of resuming his crime.

Risk assessment guide for Mr Jones

Using the table below score Mr Jones on each of the factors using the following guide.

For the **stable** and **acute** factors

- 0 = no problem
- 2 = a definite problem

For the **protective** factors

- 0 = the item is NOT protective
- 2 = the item is a definite asset

A score of 1 indicates a **slight** or **possible** problem/asset or you are **unsure** due to mixed evidence. You can omit scores in some cases however you shouldn't use score 'averaging' or guess scores.

Stable Risk Indicators	Rating
Peer associations	
Attitudes towards authority	
Impulse control	
Problem-solving	
Sense of entitlement	
Attachment with others	

Acute Risk Indicators	Rating
Substance abuse	
Anger/hostility	
Opportunity/Access to victims	
Negative mood	
Employment	
Interpersonal relationships	
Living situation	

Protective Factors	Rating
Responsive to advice	
Pro-social identity	
High expectations	
Costs/benefits	
Social support	
Social control	

Reflection question

- *What does this tell you about the risk that Mr Jones presents?*

What now?

If others have completed this activity as well spend some time comparing and contrasting your risk assessments results. Alternatively you could choose to discuss your results with a colleague, mentor or supervisor and seek their feedback on your assessment.

Get aware and get real about family violence and what you can do to help! Would you like to become more effective when working with family violence offenders and become an advocate for those who need help the most?

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