



Forensic Assessment of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

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FASD EXPERTS SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE	✓
OFFENSE CONDUCT	
Illogical actions with high detection risk	
“Simple” plan (focus is only on the objective)	
No real exit strategy	
Impulsive and aggressive over-reaction to unforeseen events (“fight or flight”)	
More sophisticated/experienced co-defendants	
ARREST CONDUCT	
Immediately or easily waives rights	
Over-confesses (suggestible)	
Brags about prowess or takes full responsibility if co-defendants	
Emotionally detached from crime (shows little remorse or guilt)	
Behavioral regression (breaks down in tears, infantile behavior)	
INTERVIEW WITH CLIENT	
Short stature (not always)	
Unstable lifestyle	
Immature and naïve	
Eager to please or stubbornly resists the obvious	
Can’t provide coherent, detailed narrative	
Can’t concentrate	
Doesn’t add much	
Doesn’t seem to remember what you tell him/her from appointment to appointment	
PRIOR LEGAL HISTORY	
Easily led by more sophisticated peers	
Multiple low-grade offenses in teen years, often with co-defendants	
Lots of stealing	
Illogical offenses (e.g., stealing something with little value)	
Oblivious to risk	
Impulsive, opportunistic crimes	
Probation violations	
LIFE HISTORY	
Mom abuses alcohol/drugs	
Involvement with child welfare	
Adoption/foster or relative placements/juvenile commitment	
Special Education / learning disabilities in school	
Multiple diagnoses in childhood (especially ADD/ADHD)	
Rule-breaking behaviors (lies, cheats, steals, fights)	
Disrupted education	
Substance abuse	
Unstable adult lifestyle (improves with structure)	