



New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual
1560 CHILD AND ADOLESCENT NEEDS AND STRENGTHS
(CANS) ASSESSMENT

Chapter: Case Management Standards for CP and JJ Field Services

Section: Case Management

Approved:

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Policy Directive: **22-51**

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References Of Note

Federal Authority:

Statutes: [RSA 169-B](#), [RSA 169-D](#), and [RSA 170-G](#)

Administrative Rules:

Case Law:

This policy establishes DCYF's use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool.

Required Practices

Any deviations to the following information must be documented with Supervisory Approval.

- I. A CANS assessment will be utilized for the purpose of making appropriate child-specific recommendations for treatment and to guide case/prevention planning and service implementation (as applicable) for children involved with JJS through:
 - A. Law enforcement referred JJS Needs Assessments (Brief CANS);
 - B. Voluntary and Court-Involved CHINS cases (Comprehensive CANS); and
 - C. Court-Involved Delinquency cases (Comprehensive CANS).
- II. The Brief CANS will be utilized:
 - A. As part of the JJS Needs Assessment and must be completed by an Assessment JPPO (Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer) in accordance with policy 1330 JJS Needs Assessments; and
 - B. To inform the Conditions of Release (Probation) Individual Plan (Form NHJB-2986-F) if already completed by an Assessment JPPO when there is a Summary Disposition.
- III. The Comprehensive CANS will be completed by a JPPO for all Voluntary/Court-Involved CHINS and Delinquency cases as follows:
 - A. During the development of a Prevention Plan (Form 1549) for any Voluntary CHINS case;
 - B. When conducting a Dispositional Needs Assessment for the purpose of completing a Dispositional Assessment Report (Form 1338) upon order of the Court; or

- C. Within 30 days of adjudication for any case where the child is not placed outside the home, or is placed with a relative or other child-specific placement, or in a licensed foster home (unless residential treatment is being considered).
- IV. Children with complex behavioral health needs who are placed, or are at-risk of being placed, in a residential treatment program (including secure placement or psychiatric hospitalization) are referred for a Comprehensive Assessment for Treatment (CAT).
- A. Children placed in a residential treatment program through an emergency court order must be referred for an expedited CAT no later than the next business day.
 - B. A CAT referral must be made at least 30 days before the expected date of placement when placement is planned.
- V. The Comprehensive CANS for all children not in residential placement must be updated in conjunction with the case or prevention plan, or sooner as appropriate, but no later than every 6 months.
- VI. The JPPO will work with the Care Management Entity (CME) to ensure the CANS is reviewed and updated every 90 days for children placed in a residential treatment program.
- VII. The JPPO will use the interview process to help the child and parents/guardians identify the child's unique strengths and needs.
- A. Collateral resources will be utilized to further complete the CANS assessment as appropriate, with the permission of the parents/guardians and child (as applicable).
 - B. If a CANS assessment has been completed within the previous 6 months and the child and parents/guardians consent, it will be updated and used for case/prevention planning purposes. This includes previous CANS completed by a third party.
- VIII. Actionable items determined through the CANS assessment must be explained to the child (as developmentally appropriate) and the parents/guardians.
- IX. Actionable items will be utilized to inform prevention/case planning, including treatment and service planning, for all JJS cases. With the consent of the child and parents/guardians, outcomes will also be shared with (as applicable):
- A. The reporting entity (specific to JJS Needs Assessments);
 - B. The child's attorney;
 - C. The Court; and
 - D. Service providers working with the child.

- X. JPPOs and Supervisors must successfully complete all initial trainings and annual re-certification testing to administer the CANS and interpret outcomes.
- XI. All CANS-specific information is entered into the CANS database.
- XII. All contact with the child and parents/guardians for the purpose of completing the CANS assessment must be documented in the DCYF electronic information system.

Applicable Forms	
Form	Title
1338	Dispositional Assessment Report
1549	Prevention Plan

Standard Operating Procedures		
SOP	Title	Applicable Disciplines
1560.2	Completing the Brief CANS-JJS	JJS
1560.3	Completing the Comprehensive CANS-JJS	JJS

Glossary and Document Specific Definitions

A - B C - D E - F G - I J - L M - N O - Q R - S T - V W - Z

Document Change Log			
PD	Modification Made	Approved	Date