

Maine Juvenile Fire Safety and Intervention Program
PARENT INTERVIEW

Instructions: Place a check mark next to the scoring level that best describes the situation for this youth. Expand the questions as you feel necessary to complete the interview with confidence.

1. What was the parent's or caregiver's response to the fire?

Suggested ways to ask this question:

- (Mom – Dad) What was your reaction to the fire?

RESPONSE / COMMENTS

Score	#1 ___	The reaction of the fire was an immediate and appropriate response, with concern for any victims.
Score	#2 ___	The reaction of the parents to the fire was one that appears too lax or too punitive.
Score	#3 ___	The reaction of the parents to the fire was either nonexistent or was an immediate and overly punitive response (such as burning of the youth's hands).

2. Is there a family history of fire?

Suggested ways to ask this question:

- Did anybody else in the family play with fire or get burned from a fire that got out of control?
- Have you ever had a house fire or a fire in your home?

RESPONSE / COMMENTS

Score	#1 ___	There is no traceable history of fire in the family. There are no parents, siblings or close relatives who are/ were firefighters, who were burned in a fire, lost their home in a fire or were firesetters.
Score	#2 ___	There is some fire history in the family that the youth has or may have heard about.
Score	#3 ___	There is a fire history about which the youth has direct knowledge.

3. *Does the youth have a history of fireplay or firesetting?*

Suggested ways to ask this question:

- How many other times has your child lit matches, played with a lighter or burned things of little or no value?
- Do you know if he has ever threatened anybody with fire or if he/she has been hurt by fire himself/herself?

RESPONSE / COMMENTS

Score	#1 ___	This is the first known incidence of fireplay for the youth.
Score	#2 ___	The youth has a sporadic history of fireplay. There was little or no damage from previous fireplay.
Score	#3 ___	The youth has a history of chronic fireplay and/or has set at least on fire with serious consequences.

4. *What kind of modeling is going on in the home? How did the parents/caregivers teach their youth about fire? What kinds of fire safety practices occur in the home? Are there any cultural or traditional ways the family uses fire?*

Suggested ways to ask this question:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ▪ Do you have a working smoke detector? | ▪ How did you teach your child about fire? |
| ▪ How do you store matches and lighters? | ▪ Do you have candles or a woodstove? |
| ▪ Are there smokers in the home? | ▪ How does your family use fire? |

RESPONSE / COMMENTS

Score	#1 ___	Appropriate fire safety is observed in the home. Smoke detectors work, woodstoves are safely installed. Parents, siblings or other family members avoid modeling fire play.
Score	#2 ___	There is modeling of fire play at home and fire safety is only moderately observed by parents and siblings.
Score	#3 ___	Family members have used fire inappropriately. The youth's home is not fire safe.

5. *How is the youth supervised?*

Suggested ways to ask this question:

- When you are not at home, who takes care of the child?

RESPONSE / COMMENTS

Score	#1 ___	The youth has good, continual parental and/or caregiver supervision.
Score	#2 ___	The youth has some supervision, but the supervision is often sporadic.
Score	#3 ___	The youth has minimal supervision.

6. *Does the youth have any problems in school?*

Suggested ways to ask this question:

Is he or she in a special classroom of any kind?

- Is the youth having any problems in school?
- Is Does your child have any learning problems, i.e. school referral for problem behaviors, trouble paying attention or being impulsive?

RESPONSE / COMMENTS

Score	#1 ___	The youth has minimal problems in school.
Score	#2 ___	The youth gets some school referrals.
Score	#2 ___	The youth receives special education services.
Score	#3 ___	The youth has been suspended or expelled from school.

7. *Has the youth ever been in counseling?*

Suggested ways to ask this question:

Is he or she in a special classroom of any kind?

- Has your child ever seen the school counselor or other mental health provider for problems?

RESPONSE / COMMENTS

Score	#1 ___	The youth has never been in counseling.
Score	#2 ___	The youth has been in counseling in the past.
Score	#3 ___	The youth is currently or has been referred for counseling.

8. *How would you describe your youth's friends?*

Suggested ways to ask this question:

Are they a positive influence on ...?

- Do you like your child's friends?
- Who is their best friend?

RESPONSE / COMMENTS

Score	#1 ___	The youth has a healthy, supportive peer group.
Score	#2 ___	The youth has some peer support, but his/her behavior is influenced by peers (bad friends).
Score	#3 ___	The youth has little or no peer support, is shunned by peers and is isolated and withdrawn.

9. *Has any kind of crisis or traumatic event happened in your family in the past 1 or 2 years? Please describe.*

RESPONSE / COMMENTS	
Score	#1 ___ There has not been a traumatic family experience in the past year.
Score	#2 ___ There has been a major traumatic family experience in the past year.
Score	#3 ___ There has been a major traumatic family event in the past that may be influencing the youth's behavior.

10. *Would you be willing to seek additional help for your child, such as counseling if necessary?*

RESPONSE / COMMENTS	
Score	#1 ___ The youth's family acknowledges the seriousness of the firesetting and seeks help appropriately.
Score	#2 ___ The family protects the child, seeks to blame others and denies their own and the child's responsibility for the fire.
Score	#3 ___ The family doesn't seem to take the behavior seriously and simply wants the fire department to "fix" the youth and/or doesn't see the need for other services. They may even refuse services
