

MJJAS/OYAS Detention Screening Tool Frequently Asked Questions

[MCL 712A.15\(3\)](#), effective October 1, 2024, requires courts to utilize a detention screening tool identified by the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), in addition to the factors to be considered under MCR 3.935, prior to detaining a youth in a secure facility.

Q1: What is the tool identified by the State Court Administrative Office as the statewide detention screening tool?

A1: The Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System/Ohio Youth Assessment System detention screening tool (MJJAS/OYAS-DET) has been selected as the statewide detention screening tool for courts. The MJJAS/OYAS¹ has a suite of screening and assessment tools developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI). Courts are required to begin using the detention screening tool on October 1, 2024, to aid in informing decisions regarding detaining youth in secure facilities.

Q2: Who must complete the training for the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool?

A2: Training and certification is required for end user court staff or court designated individuals or agencies that will be responsible for administering the detention screening tool pursuant to MCL 712A.15(3).

Q3: How frequently is recertification for the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool required?

A3: In alignment with the standard certification process for the entire MJJAS/OYAS suite of tools, recertification is not required, however, UCCI recommends recertification every 3 years and booster trainings annually.

Q4: Do court staff or designated individuals or agencies who have already completed the training and are certified to administer the MJJAS/OYAS full suite of tools need to participate in the training for the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool?

A4: No. While new training and certification is not required for individuals who have been trained and certified in the full suite of MJJAS/OYAS tools, UCCI recommends recertification every 3 years and booster trainings annually.

Q5: How do we become trained and certified in the MJJAS/OYAS-DET tool?

A5: SCAO will offer virtual trainings throughout fiscal year 2025. Please visit the Juvenile Justice Reform Training and Development section of our [Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Services](#) website for a training schedule and registration links.

¹ [UCCI: OYAS Overview](#)

MDHHS offers virtual trainings for the full suite of the MJJAS tools, which includes the MJJAS detention screening tool. Please reach out to: MDHHS-MJJAS@michigan.gov for a training schedule and to register.

Q6: Will there be a stakeholder training on the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool for judges, administrators, law enforcement, and others who wish to better understand the tool and its use but are not eligible for the end user training?

A6: Yes, a stakeholder webinar was held on 09/19/2024. A recording of the webinar is available on the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Service website located [here](#).

Q7: Is the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool to be used in isolation?

A7: While the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool should be used to inform initial placement and/or release decisions, it should **not** be used in isolation. The results of the screening should be considered along with other factors, such as those that must be considered pursuant to MCR 3.935, the reason behind the request for detainment, and professional judgment. Courts that have engaged in specialized consultation, may consider additional factors developed in furtherance of their goals.

Q8: With MJJAS/OYAS-DET being the statewide tool, are courts required to move away from their current practices to determine detention placement?

A8: The MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool is the **required** statewide detention screening tool and must be incorporated into court policies and procedures for consideration prior to the detainment of youth in a secure facility. Courts are encouraged to review their current practices in light of the requirement that this tool be used. Courts must develop and submit their policies and procedures, as outlined in Section III(a) of the Juvenile Justice Screening and Assessment Tool Guidelines to SCAO.

Q9: Will the SCAO provide courts with sample policy and procedure templates similar to what has been provided for the use of screening and assessment tools?

A9: The SCAO Screening and Assessment Tool Guidelines include a model local administrative order (LAO) for *Use of Screening and Assessment Tools* along with Guidelines for the Development of Plans for Use of Screening and Assessment Tools. All documents will be posted on the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Services' (CWJJS) website upon completion. <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/administration/offices/child-welfare-services/>

According to the SCAO Screening and Assessment Tool Guidelines, courts must develop and submit policies and procedures for the use of screening and assessment tools to SCAO.

Q10: Can a court utilize locally developed tools, along with the MJJAS/OYAS-DET

screening tool, as part of their screening process?

A10: While the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool is **required** to be conducted and results considered prior to detaining a youth in a secure facility, it is not meant to be used in isolation. The results of the screening should be considered along with other factors, such as those that must be considered pursuant to MCR 3.935, the reason behind the request for detainment, and professional judgment.

Q11: Is the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool used for detention placement decisions or release decisions?

A11: The MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool is designed to assess youth to determine if they pose a risk to engage in future delinquent behavior and should be used to inform initial placement and can be used to inform release decisions.

Q12: How does UCCI respond to concerns that the detention tool asks questions which may result in elevated risk scores and a higher number of youth placed in a secure facility?

A12: The OYAS system is a public domain risk screening and assessment system developed and validated on a Midwest population using a prospective data collection methodology². It is important to note that the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool is designed to assess a youth's level of risk, and UCCI can report that the tool performs well and accurately predicts risk across all race groups³. As described in Q&A #7, the MJJAS/OYAS-DET is not to be used in isolation when making detention decisions.

Q13: Can the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool be customized to have scoring localized to each jurisdiction?

A13: Courts may not modify the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool, including localizing the scoring guide, without the completion of a validation study which uses data to norm the tool to the county's population and demonstrates that the revised scoring guide objectively assesses the degree to which youth pose a public safety and/or flight risk. Any modifications to the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool must be made by UCCI. Any costs incurred to modify the screening tool, including the cost of validation studies, will be at the court's expense.

Q14: For emergency and after-hours requests for secure detention placement of a juvenile, is a face-to-face interview with the juvenile required to complete the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool?

A14: Administration of the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool is required for each placement in

² The [Indiana Youth Justice Oversight Committee, Screening and Assessment report \(2023\)](#) states: Prospective study involves collecting and gathering the necessary information to conduct the assessment and then studying recidivism after a set period of time has elapsed after the assessment was completed. This is compared to retrospective studies that rely on commonalities gathered from file reviews and recidivism research. Both research methodologies have pros and cons, but a prospective study allow for researchers to gather information through file reviews and interviews to evaluate additional factors related to recidivism that cannot be gleaned from a review of historical file information.

³ [2023 IRAS and IYAS Revalidation Report](#)

secure detention, including placements that occur afterhours pursuant to MCL 712A.15(3). The UCCI has provided the following guidance regarding the use of the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool for afterhours instances where the court designated individual or agency administering the screening tool may not have face-to-face access to the youth. While the MJJAS/OYAS-DET is intended to be administered through a face-to-face interview with the youth, emergency and afterhours requests for detention placement may require adjustments to the standard process. Per UCCI, in these instances only, court staff or court designated individuals or agencies who have been trained and certified in the administration of the tool may facilitate the interview over the phone with the youth.

Q15: Can the information obtained from a youth as a result of the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool being administered be used against him/her?

A15: No. MCL 712A.15(3) provides, “Any statement, admission, confession or incriminating evidence obtained from a juvenile in the course of a screening, under this section, is not admissible as evidence in an adjudicatory hearing in which the juvenile is accused, is not subject to subpoena, and may not be used in any other court proceeding or for any other purpose.”

Q16: If additional information is obtained after the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool is administered, but before a detention hearing or preliminary hearing occurs, are you required to complete to complete a second MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool?

A16: There is not a requirement to complete a second screening on the youth; however, the initial screening results can be updated to reflect any new information obtained.

Q17: Once completed, where should the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool, youth self-report, and scoring results be stored?

A17: Juvenile files are nonpublic under MCL 712A.28. All risk screenings and results, mental health screenings and results, and risk and needs assessments and results must be placed in must be placed in the juvenile’s social file contained within the court’s confidential file pursuant to MCR 3.903(A)(3).

Q18: How long are the results of the detention screening tool valid for placement in a secure facility, following the administration of the tool?

A18: Pursuant to MCL 712A.15(3), a new detention screening tool must be completed, and the results must be consulted prior to each placement in a secure facility.

Q19: Do detention facilities have to administer the MJJAS/OYAS Detention Screening Tool or does the court?

A19: MCL 712A.15(3) requires that “before a juvenile may be detained in a secure facility pending hearing, an individual or agency designated by the court shall use a detention screening tool on the juvenile.”

Q20: Will courts need to send copies of interview guides and score sheets to SCAO?

A20: No. Specific case information, such as youth's detention screening information, should not be provided to SCAO. Copies of the assessment guide and results of each detention screening completed will need to be maintained in the juvenile's social file contained within the court's confidential file pursuant to MCR 3.903(A)(3).

Q21: What information can be used as "Collateral Information?"

A21: Per the UCCI training and training materials, sources of collateral information may include a parent or guardian, law enforcement, other court documents, court file review, other assessments or evaluations, case management systems, etc.

Q22: Does the MJJAS/OYAS-DET tool need to be completed prior to issuing an order to apprehend a juvenile?

A22: MCL 712A.15(3) requires that a detention screening tool be completed, and the results considered prior to the placement of a juvenile in a secure facility.

Q23: What happens if the detention screening tool cannot be completed due to refusal to answer questions by the youth, the parent, or the youth's attorney?

A23: Per the UCCI training and training materials, the MJJAS/OYAS detention screening tool should be completed to the best of the end user's ability utilizing collateral information, file review, etc.