



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

Pat McCrory, Governor
Frank L. Perry, Secretary

W. David Guice, Commissioner
William L. Lassiter, Deputy Commissioner

March 23, 2016

To: Honorable Marion R. Warren, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts
From: William L. Lassiter, Deputy Commissioner of Juvenile Justice
Subject: Juvenile Justice Assessment of Juvenile Risk of Future Offending / “Risk Assessment”

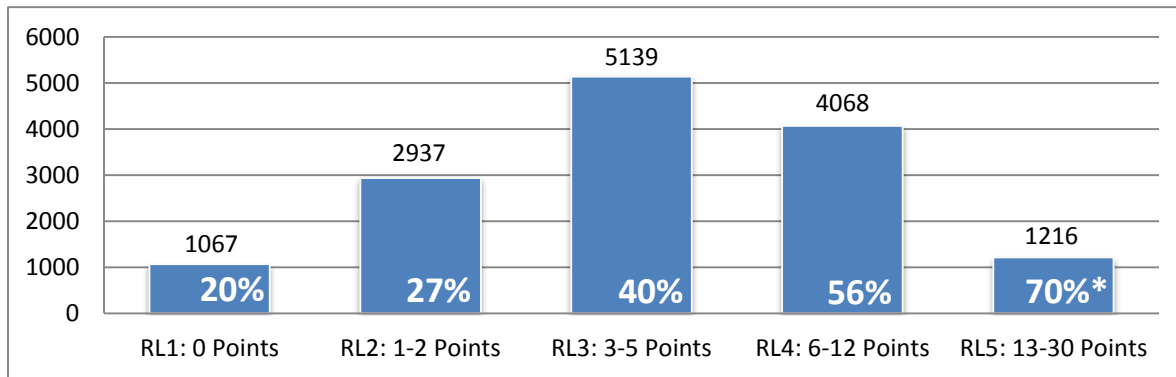
This correspondence is intended to inform you of a change, effective April 1, 2016, on the juvenile risk of future offending assessment.

As a result of the NC Sentencing Commission’s recommendation to revisit and adjust risk levels, and a Department of Public Safety’s internal tool validation study, the Department decided to adjust the risk level to more accurately reflect the risk of the juvenile recidivating.

Previously, a juvenile’s risk of re-offending score was categorized as low, medium, or high.

The scoring will now reflect five (5) distinct risk categories. Assessment questions have not changed, nor has the way questions are scored. The only change is the statistical label applied to the score, which allows for a more accurate reflection of risk of reoffending. Beginning April 1, 2016, our juvenile court counselors will use the following risk levels (RL) on the assessment reports: RL 1 (*lowest*), RL 2, RL 3, RL 4, and RL 5 (*highest*).

The graph below reflects the projected number of juveniles statewide that would fall into each category and the projected recidivism rate for that category for three years following completion of the risk assessment.



**Percentages reflect expected recidivism for this risk level.*

If you have questions regarding these changes, please contact me on 919-825-2719; I will be happy to discuss these changes with you in more detail.

Att: “Statistics Memo, Re-norming the NC Juvenile Risk Assessment,” DPS Rehabilitative Programs and Services, Research and Decision Support Analysis; Reference SM1509-02: September 22, 2015.

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Additional memorandums to:

To: Eric J. Zogry, Esq., Juvenile Defender

To: Jessica Macari, Staff Attorney, Best Practices, NC Conference of District Attorneys

To: Sheriff Hubert A. Peterkin, President, NC Sheriffs' Association

To: Edmond W. Caldwell, Jr., Executive V.P. and General Council, NC Sheriffs' Association

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