

## COMPLETION CRITERIA SUMMARY

With respect to juvenile treatment, time constraints are often a factor. Clients have a limited amount of time they can remain in any particular program for various reasons. In the juvenile court and/or treatment setting, timelines and restrictions come from many directions. The court system expects result in a specific amount of time, while insurance and parental finances often place further time pressure. While these and many other time-related factors must play a role in treatment goals, time is *not* a completion criteria.

When time is the only completion criteria, many offenders lack the needed internal motivation to change when no other criteria need be meet. In juvenile justice settings, time has proven to have no rehabilitative factors.

Rather, completion criteria should be based on behavior changes or skills learned that relate to the offender's reasons for court involvement. In order for a program to be able to affect and measure progress and success, goals and criteria for completion must be observable and specific.

The following are some of the criteria used by successful offender programs:

**1. Participant actively participates in group.**

Indicators: attends group on time, sober, attentive, makes appropriate eye contact, exhibits respectful manner.

**2. Demonstrates an understanding of the benefits of an egalitarian relationship.**

Indicators: homework assignments; client self-reports; victim contacts

**3. Takes responsibility for his/her offending behavior and its consequences.**

Indicators: no minimizing, blaming, or excusing; identifies how he/she contributes to problem

**4. Demonstrates knowledge about and understanding of abuse/offense cycle.**

Indicators: homework, discussion of concepts; using learned vocabulary; identifying forms of abuse and control he/she has used, and pattern of offending behavior, triggers, rationalization

**5. Uses skills and techniques taught in the program, both within group and by self-report and observation outside the group.**

Indicators: practicing alternatives in high risk situations, reveals feelings, fears, struggles, self doubts; no evasions, sarcasm, defensiveness; takes conscious steps to avoid violence/offense; uses time outs, self talk, conflict resolution; aware of beliefs, emotions, behaviors that lead to violence; acknowledges his/her own power and control needs

**6. Completes all program requirements.**

Indicators: homework assignments, required number of weeks, pays all fees

**7. Demonstrates use of respectful language regarding his/her victim/parents/teacher/other authority figures.**

Indicators: use of people's proper name; no sexist language, name calling, stereotypes

**8. No reports of any recent violence or abusive behaviors.**

Indicators: self-explanatory

**9. Has followed through on necessary mental health and substance abuse assessments and treatment.**

Indicators: reports from service providers

## EXAMPLE

### Successfully Completed

For a youth to be considered to have Successfully Completed the program the youth must:

1. Attend a minimum of 90% of the groups/classes;
2. Completed a minimum of 90% of the homework assignments;
3. Have engaged in meaningful participation during the groups/classes as exemplified by:
  - Actively participating in a prosocial manner;
  - Actively listening to others;
4. Have willing/able to implement the prosocial skills/behaviors acquired in treatment, as exemplified by:
  - Practice of skills/behaviors in group/class;
  - Practice of the skills/behaviors in the community (i.e., home, school).