Sample

# MEGA<sup>\$</sup> Individualized Risk Assessment Report

*MEGA<sup>r</sup>* assesses risk for coarse sexual improprieties<sup>1</sup> and/or sexually abusive behaviors<sup>2</sup> in youth ages 4 to 19, be they adjudicated youth or non-adjudicated; and/or evaluates progress of the youth every 6 months in terms of increased or decreased risk, thus an outcome measure.

## L.C. Miccio-Fonseca, Ph.D.

#### Disclaimer

 $MEGA^{\checkmark}$  Individualized Risk Assessment Report is based on the premise that the individual administering the questionnaire has been trained on how to complete  $MEGA^{\checkmark}$  and abides by all the instructional set parameters in both  $MEGA^{\checkmark}$  Manual and  $MEGA^{\checkmark}$  risk assessment training.

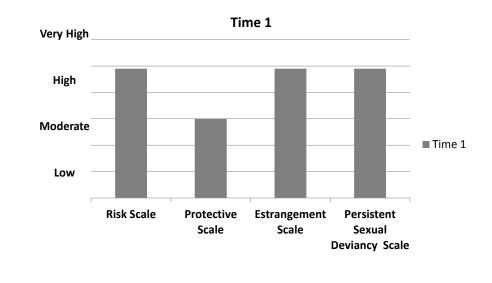
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Coarse sexual improprieties are sexually vulgar comments, expressions, and behaviors evidencing an unsophisticated awareness of psychosexual conditions, or environments, or social situations whereby the youth engages in sexual behaviors that are crude, indecent, and outside the societal norms of propriety (e.g., crude sexual gestures, sexually suggestive and/or vulgar sexual comments, mooning, looking up skirts, a young child rubbing his or her genitals in public or trying to grab another's genitals, a child looking over a stall in a public restroom).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Sexually abusive behaviors and improprieties of these youth fall along a coercion continuum of low, moderate, high, or very high (lethal) risk; this applies to sexually abusive youth who are either adjudicated or non-adjudicated.

### MEGA<sup>5</sup> Individualized Risk Assessment Report

Informational Section			
Youth's Name: Mark	MEGA <sup>s</sup> Cer	rtification Code:	456
Agency/Facility place of MEGA <sup>S</sup> Risk Assessment: Clinic for the Sexualities			
Date MEGA' Completed: 03-29-12MEGA' Official score date: 03-29-12			
Outcome Measure: Time 1- Baseline			
Gender: Male Ag	ge: 17 Ethnicity:	Caucasian Bilin	ngual: No
Educational Level: H	ligh School Mar	ital Status:	Single
Place of Residence: R	esidential Facility		

## MEGA<sup>s</sup>s Assessed Risk Level Time 1-March 2012



Risk Scale –HighProtective Scale –ModerateEstrangement Scale –HighPersistent Sexual Deviancy –High

*Caution: Clinical research has demonstrated rating bias by treatment providers with regard to reporting progress of individual in treatment; therefore, ideally someone other than the treatment provider completed the MEGA<sup>s</sup> risk assessment questionnaire.* 

#### MEGA<sup>s</sup> Risk Scale - High

 $MEGA^{\circ}$ 's Risk Scale assesses the youth at the generalized overall potential risk for coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive behaviors, including both static (historical) factors and dynamic factors that change over time.

On the *Risk Scale*, Mark was *High. Risk Scale-High* implies Mark is at an extremely serious potential risk for coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive behaviors and requires immediate intervention. *Risk Scale-High* youth call for consideration of possible levels of danger and lethality; they need to be further assessed (i.e., a danger to either self and/or others). *Risk Scale-High* suggests Mark is likely to have a recognized pattern of early onset of notable maladaptive behaviors that may or may not have been effectively dealt with by parents and/or other interested and involved parties. Nevertheless, for whatever reasons, these alarming behaviors have persisted and at this juncture, are serious.

*Risk Scale-High* implies Mark likely has a chronic and unremitting history of maladaptive behaviors that may include antisocial behaviors such as stealing, or lying, destruction of property vandalism and/or assault. *Risk Scale-High* youth often have had a school disciplinary action (i.e., detention and/or suspension) over the last 6 months).

*Risk Scale-High* indicates Mark is apt to have a history of escalating into angry and aggressive outbursts that includes threatening others verbally and physically. He likely has used a weapon or has used objects as a weapon (e.g., screwdriver, baseball bat) or threatened to do so.

*Risk Scale-High* suggests Mark often affiliates with peers who also have an antisocial history, which may include criminal and even violent behaviors that have been adjudicated. Although his recent behaviors (over the last 6 months) may have become increasingly pro-social, he is prone to have difficulty getting along with others and likely has a history of becoming aggressive and/or coercive, including reports that a history of threats of making bodily harm and/or threats of lethal consequences.

*Risk Scale-High* implies Mark is likely to have contact with law enforcement, which may have included arrests, charges, and/or adjudications. These contacts with law enforcement are related to both non-sexual and sexual behaviors. *Risk Scale-High* suggests Mark has early reports of being forceful and vigorous in his interactions with others. It is likely that these behaviors have increased with intensity and frequency to levels of aggressive acts and manifesting physical violence towards others, (this might include adults). These behaviors may accompany a history of bullying others, threatening others with physical harm and/or threatening others with a weapon, or using objects like a weapon (e.g., pencils, scissors). There may be a history of cruelty and/or torturing an animal(s).

*Risk Scale-High* indicates Mark is apt to have a history of two or more victims and a history of using <u>combined coercive</u> elements of threats of force, and/or lethal consequences and/or bodily harm and/or the use of weapon *during* sexually abusive behaviors.

*Risk Scale-High* implies Mark likely has a history of less egregious illegal sexual behaviors (i.e., peeping, voyeurism, indecent exposure, and others) and/or may have committed a sexual offense in a public place. They are likely to have unorthodox, out of the ordinary sexual interests; however, these interests may not necessarily related to sex crimes.

*Risk Scale- High* suggests Mark has a history of problems with paying attention in school, and/or daydreaming. If he has a learning disability, it may not have been diagnosed or officially documented. His learning problems may co-occur with behavioral problems; Mark may have had a school disciplinary action (i.e., detention and/or suspension) that occurred over the last 6 months.

*Risk Scale-High* indicates Mark has a history of head injuries, possible history of seizures/epilepsy, a history of sleepwalking, or sleep talking. History may reveal sleepwalking episodes that included of walking out of the home, or walking up and down stairs, or entering another home; the youth legitimately may have no memory of such.

#### MEGA<sup>\$</sup> Protective Scale - Moderate

The *MEGA<sup>s</sup> Protective Scale* identifies the elements present that mitigate, or moderate risk. *Protective Scale* is the only scale where *lower scores imply higher concerns*. A low *Protective Scale* score reflects fewer variables available to mitigate risk. On the other hand, a high *Protective Scale* score may reflect improvements over the last 6 months that mitigate risk, even though Mark has a longstanding history of serious and substantially concerning behaviors. Although it is important that Mark's history not be discounted, at the same time one must consider the positive gains (no matter how small) Mark has made over the last 6 months. Nevertheless, with regard to Mark's level of risk, the reference is always the *Risk Scale* that establishes the level of risk for coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive behaviors.

On *Protective Scale*, Mark is *Moderate*. *Protective Scale-Moderate* implies Mark may be increasingly manifesting pro-social behaviors and functioning; however, these behaviors need to increase in frequency; he needs to consistently show these behaviors across different situations and sustained over a period of time (6 months). He is likely to have developed additional patterns of behaviors that are moving more towards pro-social behaviors, interests, activity and friends (e.g., becoming more cooperative, helpful to others, more able to adhere to rules and directives).

*Protective Scale-Moderate* implies Mark is likely to regularly attend school, is actively engaged in classroom and other academic activities (e.g., completes assignments and/or projects, is a self-starter, follows through, is timely and invested in the assignments, involved in computer based learning and social media).

*Protective Scale-Moderate* suggests Mark has no history of drug use or abuse over the last 6 months. *Protective Scale-Moderate* implies a youth with a support system composed of family members who are involved and engaged in his life, although at times support and contact is not consistent. His family is likely involved in different aspects of Mark's life (at home, school, and/or treatment) over the last 6 months. *Protective Scale-Moderate* implies over the last 6 months, Mark has been engaging in school activities (i.e., team sports, choir, school clubs, drama club, hobby shop, etc.) and/or has been participating in community activities (i.e., athletic teams, church youth clubs, being a volunteer, etc.).

*Protective Scale-Moderate* implies if Mark has acquired employment, his performance evaluations are likely to be mixed (e.g., problems with attendance, not always reliable or failing to complete assigned tasks and/or failing to complete the most minimal of tasks). Mark may have a record of tardiness, may be slow to complete tasks and known to be giving little attention to details, which in turn can pose as a liability for the employer if safety standards are not followed. He may appear at times to be casual with his duties and responsibilities; however, these reports may be also accompanied with periodic episodes of executing tasks independently and satisfactorily.

*Protective Scale-Moderate* implies there have been improvements with regard to parental involvement, cohesion in the family, and/or a stable residence; however, there continue to be significant issues that have not been resolved.

#### MEGA<sup>\$</sup> Estrangement Scale - High

*Estrangement Scale* is related to relationships Mark has with others and his manner and/or behaviors in those relationships. On the *Estrangement Scale*, Mark is *High. Estrangement Scale-High* suggests a youth with a significantly chronic history of deficiencies in self-navigation and self-governance. He is impulsive, becomes quickly impatient and reactive in response to various situations at home, school, and /or work; the behaviors have been longstanding. This does not mean he does not make efforts to self-correct, as this can sometimes be observed. However, for whatever reason these efforts are not sustained to the level of significance needed for a consistent manifestation of improved self-governance over a period of time (a minimum of 6 months). There may be other outside variables, unrelated to Mark's ability to control or change the situation that are contributing to Mark's difficulties in self-governing (e.g., a parent who is unreliable in getting him to appointments, transportation difficulties, etc.).

*Estrangement Scale-High* indicates Mark has a pattern of being manipulative, confrontational, and disingenuous over the last 6 months. These behaviors likely have a long history with reports beginning in early elementary school, or preschool. *Estrangement Scale-High* suggests Mark has a history of being deceitful and dishonest, since early development and continues to manifest such behaviors. Although he attempts to be apologetic for infractions, these attempts are likely shallow apologies and disingenuous.

*Estrangement Scale-High* indicates Mark's history likely reflects a consistent combination of operating variables: chronic high levels of stress, poor self-regulation, and problems being honest and trustworthy. *Estrangement Scale-High* suggests Mark is likely to have discord and tension in his family environment, including conflict with parents or caregivers over the last 6 months.

*Estrangement Scale-High* implies Mark is apt to be a victim of abuse (i.e., physical, sexual, neglect or emotional abuse). *Estrangement Scale-High* indicates Mark's family history likely reflects chronic problematic interpersonal relationships with family members (parents, siblings, and/or extended family); it is likely Mark's family has not been fully involved and engaged in his life. Family history may include a history of antisocial behaviors and/or criminal lifestyle with possibly some family members that spent time or are currently in custody (i.e., jail or prison).

#### **MEGA<sup>\$</sup>** Persistent Sexual Deviancy Scale - High

The *MEGA<sup>s</sup> Persistent Sexual Deviancy Scale* alerts one to concerns of sexual historical nature (e.g., youth possibly in the past has sexually abused multiple victims). On the *Persistent Sexual Deviancy Scale*, Mark was *High. Persistent Sexual Deviancy Scale-High* is significant.

*Persistent Sexual Deviancy Scale-High* implies Mark has considerable multiple historical (static and unchangeable) variables related to his potential risk for coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive behaviors. Mark is likely to have a history of multiple victims, possibly of both genders, related and non-related. Although historical data may be related to reports of having several victims, there may be no law enforcement involvement to the level of arrests, or charges, or adjudications and/or probation, for such sexual improprieties. Sexually abusive acts are likely to have been progressive and include sexual penetration. He may have unconventional or out of the ordinary sexual interests that are not criminal (e.g., cross-dressing, fetishes, sadomasochistic sex). He may have sexual behaviors that lead to or risk physical injury (e.g., inserting objects into his anus).

*Persistent Sexual Deviancy-High* suggests Mark has a history of age disparity with victims and the number of victims is likely to be more than two. The *Persistent Sexual Deviancy Scale* assesses whether Mark's sexual behaviors have involved a significant age disparity with victims (e.g., an 11 year-old with a 3 year-old child, an 8 or 6 year-old with a 2 year-old). A wide age disparity between the youth and victim(s) speaks to many different issues, some of which relate to emotional and psychological maturity and/or physical development. This is particularly true if the pattern of age disparity is with multiple victims and known to be over time.

#### *MEGA<sup>s</sup>'s Scale Combination Profile Summary:*

 $MEGA^{s}$  provides the best-educated scientifically based method in assessing level of potential risk for coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive behaviors of youth, ages 4-19 years of age, males and/or females, and youth who have low intellectual functioning.

The *MEGA<sup>s</sup>* Individualized Risk Assessment Report provided Mark's baseline information regarding the level of overall potential risk for coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive behaviors (*Risk Scale*) and the other scales in the body of this report gave additional risk related information. The *Protective Scale* provided information on Mark's overall general functioning over the last 6 months. The *Estrangement Scale* provided information on interpersonal relationships, impulsivity, and trustworthiness; and *Persistent Sexual Deviancy Scale* provided information on factors related to Mark's sexual improprieties. Each of the respective scales measures a different aspect of the youth and likely accounts for why the findings may at times seem contradictory. The risk assessment report addresses the various risk factors, accompanied by the empirical research literature related to the particular area of risk for sexually abusive behaviors, and includes the cross-validation study findings.

Approximately 60% of the cross-validation sample had profiles of *Low Risk* across three of the respective scales (*Risk Scale, Estrangement Scale*, and *Persistent Sexual Deviancy Scale*). These findings are suggestive of youth who have limited histories of serious antisocial and/or criminal activity and no law enforcement history (e.g., adjudications for sexually abusive behaviors). Low risk youth implies that they adhere to the rules, follow directions, have family support, and overall are not impulsive. In contrast, on the fourth scale, *Protective Scale-Low* indicates problems in Mark's functioning over the last 6 months (i.e., the youth has been inconsistent in attendance at school, has not been timely in chores, tasks and assignments that are set forth at home, school, in the community and/or job if the youth is employed).

The following is a summary of Mark's profile: *Risk Scale-High* implies *Mark is at an extremely serious potential risk* for coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive behaviors for children and adolescents requiring immediate intervention. *Risk Scale-High* youth call for consideration of possible levels of danger and lethality; Mark needs to be further assessed (i.e., a danger to either self and/or others). *Protective Scale-Moderate* implies Mark has begun to cultivate and increasingly manifest pro-social behaviors, interests, activity, and friends. Mark is likely to have developed additional patterns of behaviors that are becoming more cooperative, helpful to others, more able to adhere to rules and directives. However, these prosocial behaviors need to increase in frequency, and need to be consistently across different situations, and sustained over a period of time (6 months). *Estrangement Scale-High* indicates Mark has a significantly chronic history of deficiencies in self-navigation and self-governance. *Estrangement Scale-High* suggests Mark can be most unreliable and not trustworthy, and is

likely to have been impatient, reactive, and impulsive over the last 6 months. This does not mean Mark does not make efforts to self-correct, as this can sometimes be observed. However, for whatever reason these efforts are not able to be sustained to the level of significance needed for a consistent manifestation of improved self-governance over a period time (a minimum of 6 months). *Persistent Sexual Deviancy Scale-High* implies Mark has considerable numerous historical (static and unchangeable) variables related to potential risk for coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive behaviors. Mark is likely to have a history of multiple victims, possibly of both genders, related and non-related.

The comprehensive report provided Mark's baseline with regard to level of risk for coarse sexual improprieties and/or sexually abusive behaviors and identified important risk related variables to be considered for this youth when devising a case plan for intervention and/or risk reduction.

Thank you for including *MEGA*<sup>3</sup> as part of your assessment protocol.

L.C. Miccio-Fonseca, Ph.D. Author of *MEGA*<sup>*s*</sup> Clinical Psychologist and Researcher San Diego, CA, USA E-Mail address: lcmf@cox.net