

APPENDIX 1: FSA'S RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT SYSTEM IN DETAIL

The new federal RNAS for use by BOP is an “objective and statistically validated method through which information [will be] collected and evaluated to determine”:

- The risk that a prisoner will recidivate upon release, individually classifying all BOP inmates (during initial implementation of the RNAS, and thereafter upon intake) as “minimum,” “low,” “medium,” or “high” risk;
- Each prisoner’s risk of violent or serious misconduct within BOP facilities;
- “To the extent practicable” and “after accounting for ... safety,” guidance on program grouping and housing assignments such that prisoners with a similar risk level are grouped together; and
- The “type, amount, and intensity” of recidivism-reduction programs that will best minimize the risk that each assessed prisoner will recidivate upon release, with assignment to appropriate “evidence-based recidivism reduction programming” (EBRPs) and “productive activities” (based on individually assessed “criminogenic needs”), and reassignment to such programming and activities as appropriate should a periodic reassessment indicate that a prisoner’s risk or needs have changed.

Reassessments (and thereby indicated risk reclassifications and programming reassignments) are to be undertaken on a “not less often than annually basis” for prisoners who successfully participate in EBRPs and productive activities, and on a “more frequent” than annually basis for prisoners classified as medium or high risk who have less than 5 years remaining until their projected release dates. All RNAS assessments and reassessments must be based on factors that include “indicators of progress, and of regression, that are dynamic and that can reasonably be expected to change while in prison,” and resulting assignments to BOP programming and activities must ensure that “all prisoners at each risk level have a meaningful opportunity to reduce their classification during ... incarceration.” All RNAS assessments and reassessments must also include “screening for dyslexia.”