
Risk and Needs Assessments

400.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide general guidelines for the selection and administration of risk and needs assessment tools (RNAs) and the use of resulting information.

400.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department to use RNAs fairly, properly, and consistently to assist in making informed decisions regarding probationer levels of risk, intervention strategies, treatment, and supervision.

400.3 AGENCY RNA SELECTION

The Chief Probation Officer or the authorized designee is responsible for:

- (a) Identifying and approving any RNA to be used by officers considering state or other jurisdictional requirements.
 - 1. Any/All State-Authorized Risk Assessment Tools used for the evaluation of Sex Offenders (SARATSO) (Penal Code § 290.04).
 - 2. All other RNAs to be used by department officers.
- (b) Creating and maintaining procedures for the administration of RNAs, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Procedures to collect initial and updated information.
 - 2. Reassessments based on probationer life changes or other dynamic risk factors.
- (c) Periodically reviewing assessments and results to identify any training or RNA adjustments or improvements.
- (d) Working with other agencies and entities, including courts, prosecutors, treatment providers, and other providers, to facilitate coordination and implementation of department-approved RNAs and related procedures.

400.4 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Officers should not administer or score an RNA before completing department-approved training.

Only department-approved RNAs should be used.

Officers should supplement information collected during the administration of the RNA with information from an official records check, such as a criminal history records check.

Officers who reasonably believe the results of the RNA may be inaccurate or incomplete should consult with a supervisor to determine whether presentation to the court or other resolution is appropriate.

Humboldt County Probation Department

Probation Manual

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400.4.1 STATE REQUIREMENTS

Officers should submit SARATSO results to the Department of Justice as provided in Penal Code § 290.09.

400.5 TRAINING

Officers using RNAs should receive periodic training on the use of approved RNAs. The training should include, as applicable and as resources allow:

- (a) The purpose of the RNA, including the types of offenders for which the RNA was developed.
- (b) Information required for administration of the RNA.
- (c) How to administer the RNA.
- (d) Limitations of the RNA.
- (e) The types of decisions that may be made based on data produced by the RNA.
- (f) How the RNA calculates risk and needs and what, if any, other assessment information may be provided by the tool (e.g., strengths, responsivity factors).

400.5.1 SEX OFFENDER RISK ASSESSMENT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Only officers trained as required by Penal Code § 290.05 may administer a SARATSO.