

Name of Tool	Protective and Risk Observations for Eliminating Sexual Offense Recidivism (PROFESOR)
Category	Youth Assessment: Sexual Violence Risk (Awaiting Validation)
Author / Publisher	Worling
Year	2017

Description

- The PROFESOR is a structured checklist examining protective and risk factors in adolescents and young adults who have sexually offended. It is applicable to individuals aged 12-25 years old.
- The tool should be scored using multiple sources of information: interviews with individuals themselves and parents/caregiver; review of security information; results from tests or other measures.
- It consists of twenty dynamic items relating to sexual interests, behaviours and individual features like problem-solving. Each of these are coded as either protective, neutral or risk. Since these items apply to behaviours and circumstances in the past two months, it could have the potential to be useful as a measure of change over time.
- Once totalled, ratings fall into one of five categories ranging from 'predominantly protective,' needing little or no intervention, through to 'predominantly risk,' requiring significant intervention.

Age Appropriateness

12-25

Assessor Qualifications

No specific assessor qualifications.

Tool Development

- The rationale behind the PROFESOR was to have a measure that “simultaneously considers both protective and risk characteristics” for the purposes of informing decisions about treatment rather than predicting future risk. This decision was additionally driven by findings of the current research relating to the validity of risk prediction tools such as the ERASOR and the J-SOAP-II, as well as emerging findings from the literature that some factors measured in other tools are not relevant to young people. The absence of protective factors and the relatively narrow age range of other well-known risk assessment tools was also a motivating factor for the development of the PROFESOR ([Worling, 2017](#)).
- The tool was developed using a review of the available literature and previous clinical experience with adolescents and young adults who have sexually offended.

General Notes

- The PROFESOR is not to be used to predict risk of future sexual offending; rather, its purpose is to facilitate planning interventions that may help to facilitate healthy sexual relationships and, thus, reduce sexual recidivism.
- Since the PROFESOR covers an age range of fourteen years, it is pertinent to be sensitive to developmental nuances and expectations when using it. An emotionally intimate friendship, for instance, will likely look different at age 22 from what it would at age 13.
- The five categories which an individual can be placed into are intended to guide the type and intensity of intervention required.
- The tool may also be used for adolescents who have downloaded or distributed child abuse images; although further research is needed on this (Worling, personal communication, January 2018).
- A simple scoring sheet has been developed for the PROFESOR to assist with the final categorisation and is available here: <http://www.profesor.ca/downloads.html>
- Further information about the PROFESOR may be found at the website: <http://www.profesor.ca/>