

DHR - LEVEL OF CARE DEFINITIONS
AND
DSM IV - GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF FUNCTIONING

Concordance of Symptoms and Criteria

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Level One	GAF 71-100
Emotional - occasional mild emotional or behavioral problems.	If present, symptoms are transient. Expectable reactions to stressors.
Mental Health - No specialized medical needs.	
Behaviors may include: normal	Problem concentrating after a family argument. Temporarily behind in schoolwork.
Care is reassurance, consistency, and regular parenting.	
Services in a family foster home or basic group home.	
Level Two	GAF 61-70
Emotional - mild emotional or behavioral problems.	Some mild symptoms.
Mental Health - Likely mental health diagnosis.	Depressed mood, mild insomnia.
Behaviors may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor property destruction • Nonviolent anti-social acts • Some oppositional behaviors Not a threat to self or others	Some difficulty in social or school functioning. Occasional truancy Theft within the household
Medical - may have minor medical problems	

Level Three	GAF 51-60
Emotional - moderate or occasional serious emotional or behavioral problems.	Moderate symptoms
Mental Health - Has a mental health diagnosis	Flat affect, occasional panic attacks
Behaviors may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual acting out without harming others • Running away with brief absence Delinquent behavior infrequent, not chronic	Moderate difficulty in school. Few friends. Conflicts with peers.
Medical - may have serious medical problems, medically fragile	
Level Four	GAF 41-50
Emotional - moderate to serious emotional or behavioral problems.	Serious symptoms
Mental Health - Has a mental health moderate to high levels of depression, hyperactivity etc.	No friends Severe obsessive rituals
May have had a psychiatric hospitalization. May have a history of incarceration / juvenile justice facility	
Behaviors including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats of harm • Occasional dangerousness to self/others • Occasional suicidal ideation, running away absences several hours or more. Possible school expulsions.	Suicidal ideation Frequent shoplifting

Level Five	GAF 31-40
Emotional - serious to severe emotional or behavioral problems.	Some impairment in reality testing or communication.
Mental Health - Has a mental health diagnosis	Major impairment in several areas.
Behaviors may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual acting out without aggression or with aggression with no injury. • Self-injurious behavior or suicidal intent but not warranted treatment in 30 days. • Running away with prolonged absence. • Pre-delinquent or delinquent behaviors • Bizarre or eccentric behaviors. Not dangerous to self or others. Little or no remorse for inappropriate behaviors.	Frequently beats up younger children Defiant at home Failing at school Speech is at times illogical, irrelevant
Services, likely inconsistent response to treatment, multiple interventions.	
Treatment in a highly trained therapeutic foster home or therapeutic residential setting.	
Medical - serious medical problems, time-intensive requirements.	

Level Six	GAF 21-30
Emotional - severe emotional or behavioral problems.	Behavior influenced by delusions or hallucinations.
<p>Mental Health - Has a mental health diagnosis Behaviors may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual acting out. • Self-injurious behavior or suicidal intent. • Running away with prolonged absence. • Delinquent behaviors. • Noncompliant with medications. <p>Cruelty to animals, fire-setting, community risk.</p>	<p>Sometimes incoherent, acts grossly inappropriately, suicidal preoccupation,</p> <p>Stays in bed all day.</p>
Services. Had multiple interventions, not successful and requires intensive services to be safe.	Inability to function in almost all areas.
Occasionally the child could be served in a highly supported therapeutic foster home.	