







## CORRECTIONAL SUMMARY

The following classifications are based on prediction models developed as part of a research study involving over 10,000 offenders who completed the MCMI-III test at intake. The *MCMI-III Corrections Report User's Guide* summarizes this research and the validity evidence supporting these classifications. These research-based classifications are intended to assist with key programming and placement decisions made at intake.

This inmate's probable need for:	is classified as:
Mental Health Intervention	<b>High</b>
Substance Abuse Treatment	<b>Low</b>
Anger Management Services	<b>Low</b>

The statements below are relevant to offenders who have been adjudicated and recently confined to prison. These judgments are based primarily on clinical and theoretical hypotheses that derive from scores and profiles obtained on the MCMI-III test.

### **Reaction to Authority**

This offender is apt to be socially isolated, anxious, and dependent. He is not inclined to be troublesome, and is rather quiet, submissive, generally ineffectual, and withdrawn.

### **Escape Risk**

Even if opportunities arise, this offender is not likely to engage in escape behavior.

### **Disposition to Malingering**

This offender's characteristic withdrawal and worrisomeness may resemble malingering but actually represent a pattern of ineffectuality that is not consciously intended.

### **Response to Crowding/Isolation**

Placement of this offender in a "safe" living unit would be wise, in part to reduce discomfiting social pressures and in part to decrease the likelihood of his being preyed upon and humiliated.

### **Amenability to Treatment/Rehabilitation**

It may be necessary to prevent this prisoner from withdrawing into self-imposed isolation. Educational rehabilitation may be advisable to compensate for a limited school or work background. The program should be sufficient to ensure at least a modicum of marketable post-release skills. His receptivity to such efforts, however, may prove to be slow and arduous.

### **Suicidal Tendencies**

As indicated above, the research-based, multi-scale MCMI-III prediction model classifies this offender as having a high probable need for mental health intervention. In addition, his item responses indicate that he has recently thought about committing suicide.

## RESPONSE TENDENCIES

The BR scores reported for this individual have been modified to account for the psychic tension and dejection indicated by the elevations on Scale A (Anxiety) and Scale D (Dysthymia).

## AXIS II: PERSONALITY PATTERNS

The following paragraphs refer to those enduring and pervasive personality traits that underlie this man's emotional, cognitive, and interpersonal difficulties. Rather than focus on the largely transitory symptoms that make up Axis I clinical syndromes, this section concentrates on his more habitual and maladaptive methods of relating, behaving, thinking, and feeling.

MCMIII profiles such as this man's signify tendencies to be introverted, emotionally impoverished, and expressively either impassive or depressed. Preferring to remain in the background, he may lack social initiative and display little stimulus-seeking behavior. Notable also are cognitive deficits and unclear thinking about interpersonal matters. Anger and discontent rarely surface. More typically, he will appear sad or disengaged emotionally. Reluctant to accept help from others, he is likely to sacrifice his own interests, try not to be a burden to others, and act in a compliant and placating manner. His easy fatigability and slow personal tempo may be compounded by a general weakness in expressiveness and spontaneity. Although he is prone to assume a peripheral role in social and family relationships, he may also have a need to gain some measure of support from significant others. These conflicting attitudes stem in part from his feelings of low self-esteem and his deficiencies in autonomous and competent behavior. Quick to self-blame, he is inclined to belittle himself and to possess a self-image of being a weak and ineffectual person.

Daily life for this offender may be experienced as uneventful, with extended periods of passive solitude interspersed with feelings of sadness and emptiness. He is likely to have endorsed items such as "Few things in life give me pleasure." He tries to be indifferent to his social surroundings, is minimally introspective, and is sufficiently withdrawn as to miss the subtleties of emotional life, and he exhibits few affectionate or erotic needs. His thought processes tend to be unfocused and tangential, particularly in regard to interpersonal matters. As a result, his social communications are often strained and self-conscious. His hesitation to express affection may stem from an inability to experience enthusiasm or pleasure. Moreover, for extended periods, he may exhibit a pervasive dysthymic mood that is punctuated occasionally by unanchored and ill-defined anxiety.

This man prefers to follow a simple, repetitive, and dependent life pattern. He actively avoids self-assertion, appears spiritless and cheerless, abdicates autonomous responsibilities, and may be indifferent to conventional social aspirations. Disengaged from and uninterested in most of the rewards of human affairs, he often appears apathetic, if not depressed and morose. Although lacking in drive, he is also fearful of rebuff. Therefore, he restricts his social and emotional involvements, which consequently perpetuates his pattern of social isolation and sadness.

## AXIS I: CLINICAL SYNDROMES

The features and dynamics of the following Axis I clinical syndromes appear worthy of description and analysis. They may arise in response to external precipitants but are likely to reflect and accentuate several of the more enduring and pervasive aspects of this man's basic personality makeup.

Preoccupation with matters of personal adequacy and chronic feelings of worthlessness and guilt appear to predominate in the major depression evident in the clinical picture of this socially awkward and introverted man. Timid, shy, and apprehensive, he is especially sensitive to public humiliation and rejection. Worthy of note is his tolerance of daily unhappiness and emptiness, a willingness to accept his feelings of worthlessness and guilt. Plagued with self-doubts and thoughts of death, he may be notably saddened by the view that he is both socially unattractive and physically inferior. Fearful of expressing his discontent to others who might thereby reject or humiliate him, he deals with his frustration by turning it inward, becoming intropunitively depressed. This offender's score on MCMII-III Scale CC (Major Depression) is 78. Empirical research has shown that offenders scoring 75 or higher on Scale CC at intake are very much more likely to require prison-provided mental health services compared to offenders scoring below 75. This research is described in the *MCMII-III Corrections Report User's Guide*.

This man may be experiencing an anxiety disorder, noted by symptoms such as fatigue, insomnia, muscular tension, distracted thinking, and a general dysphoric mood. Basically shy and socially uncomfortable, he may be plagued by self-doubt. Especially hypersensitive to public humiliation or reproval, he may lack sufficient self-esteem to respond to such events by expressing the anger and resentment he might feel. His anxiety not only may be one of his general states--an omnipresent level of discomfort, especially with others--but also may be intensified by fear that his restrained anger may spew forth against persons he dares not provoke. This offender's score on MCMII-III Scale A (Anxiety) is 82. Empirical research has shown that offenders scoring 75 or higher on Scale A at intake are more likely to require prison-provided mental health services compared to offenders scoring below 75. This research is described in the *MCMII-III Corrections Report User's Guide*.

## NOTEWORTHY RESPONSES

He answered the following statements in the direction noted in parentheses. These items suggest specific problem areas that the clinician may wish to investigate.

### Health Preoccupation

1. Omitted Item (True)
4. Omitted Item (True)
55. Omitted Item (True)
74. Omitted Item (True)
130. Omitted Item (True)
149. Omitted Item (True)



### Special Note:

The content of the test items is included in the actual reports. To protect the integrity of the test, the item content does not appear in this sample report.

### **Interpersonal Alienation**

- 10. Omitted Item (True)
- 27. Omitted Item (True)
- 92. Omitted Item (True)
- 105. Omitted Item (True)
- 167. Omitted Item (True)

### **Emotional Dyscontrol**

- 34. Omitted Item (True)

### **Self-Destructive Potential**

- 44. Omitted Item (True)
- 142. Omitted Item (True)
- 171. Omitted Item (True)

### **Childhood Abuse**

No items endorsed.

### **Eating Disorder**

No items endorsed.

## **POSSIBLE *DSM-IV*® MULTIAXIAL DIAGNOSES**

The following diagnostic assignments should be considered judgments of personality and clinical prototypes that correspond conceptually to formal diagnostic categories. The diagnostic criteria and items used in the MCMII-III test differ somewhat from those in the *DSM-IV*, but there are sufficient parallels in the MCMII-III items to recommend consideration of the following assignments.

It should be noted that several *DSM-IV* Axis I syndromes are not assessed in the MCMII-III test. Definitive diagnoses must draw on biographical, observational, and interview data in addition to self-report inventories such as the MCMII-III test.

### **Axis I: Clinical Syndromes**

The major complaints and behaviors of the offender parallel the following Axis I diagnoses, listed in order of their clinical significance and salience.

- 296.33 Major Depression (recurrent, severe, without psychotic features)
- 300.02 Generalized Anxiety Disorder

### **Axis II: Personality Disorders**

Deeply ingrained and pervasive patterns of maladaptive functioning underlie Axis I clinical syndromal pictures. The following personality prototypes correspond to the most probable *DSM-IV* diagnoses (Disorders, Traits, Features) that characterize this offender.

Personality configuration composed of the following:

301.20 Schizoid Personality Disorder  
with Dependent Personality Traits  
Avoidant Personality Traits  
and Depressive Personality Features

Course: The major personality features described previously reflect long-term or chronic traits that are likely to have persisted for several years prior to the present assessment.

The clinical syndromes described previously tend to be relatively transient, waxing and waning in their prominence and intensity depending on the presence of environmental stress.

#### **Axis IV: Psychosocial and Environmental Problems**

In completing the MCMII-III test, this individual identified the following problems that may be complicating or exacerbating his present emotional state. They are listed in order of importance as indicated by the individual. This information should be viewed as a guide for further investigation by the clinician.

Antisocial Behavior; Marriage or Family Problems

### **TREATMENT GUIDE**

If additional clinical data are supportive of the MCMII-III's hypotheses, it is likely that this offender's difficulties can be managed with either brief or extended therapeutic methods. The following guide to treatment planning is oriented toward issues and techniques of a short-term character, focusing on matters that might call for immediate attention, followed by time-limited procedures designed to reduce the likelihood of repeated relapses.

As a first step, it would appear advisable to implement methods to ameliorate this offender's current state of clinical anxiety, depressive hopelessness, somatic or stress difficulties, as well as pathological personality functioning by the rapid implementation of supportive psychotherapeutic measures. With appropriate consultation, targeted psychopharmacologic medications may also be useful at this initial stage.

Once this offender's more pressing or acute difficulties are adequately stabilized, attention should be directed toward goals that would aid in preventing a recurrence of problems, focusing on circumscribed issues and employing delimited methods such as those discussed in the following paragraphs.

A major thrust of brief therapy for this offender should be to enhance his social interest and competence. Although he should not be pushed beyond tolerable limits, careful and well-reasoned cognitive methods (e.g., Beck, Meichenbaum) may foster the development of more accurate and focused styles of thinking. In addition to working toward the extinction of false beliefs about himself and the attitudes of others toward him, the therapist should be alert to spheres of life in which the offender possesses positive emotional inclinations and should encourage the offender, through interpersonal methods and behavior skill development techniques, to undertake activities consonant with these



tendencies.

Although the success of short-term methods may justify an optimistic outlook, the offender's initial receptivity may create the misleading perception that further advances and progress will be rapid. Care should be taken to prevent early treatment success from precipitating a resurfacing of his established ambivalence between wanting social acceptance and fearing that he is placing himself in a vulnerable position. Enabling him to forgo his long-standing expectations of disappointment may require "booster" sessions following initial, short-term success. Support should be provided to ease his fears, particularly his feeling that his efforts may not be sustainable and will inevitably result in social disapproval again.

With appropriate consultation, psychopharmacologic treatment may be considered. Trial periods with a number of agents may be explored to determine whether any effectively increase his energy and affectivity. Such agents should be used with caution, however, because they may activate feelings that the offender is ill-equipped to handle. As noted, attempts to cognitively reorient his problematic attitudes may be useful in motivating interpersonal sensitivity and confidence. Likewise, short-term techniques of behavioral modification may be valuable in strengthening the offender's social skills. Group and family methods may be useful in encouraging and facilitating his acquisition of constructive social attitudes. In these benign settings, he may begin to alter his social image and develop both the motivation and the skills for a more effective interpersonal style. Preceding or combining short-term programs with individual treatment sessions may aid in forestalling untoward recurrences of the discomfort currently experienced by the offender.

Focused treatment efforts for this introversive and passive man are best directed toward countering his withdrawal tendencies. Minimally introspective and evincing diminished affect and energy, he must be prevented, through circumscribed therapies, from becoming increasingly isolated from others, be they discomfiting or benign. Energy should be invested to enlarge his social world owing to his tendencies to pursue with diligence only those activities required by his job or by his family obligations. By shrinking his interpersonal milieu, he precludes exposure to new experience. Of course, this is his preference, but such behavior only fosters his isolated and withdrawn existence. To prevent such backsliding and a relapse, the therapist should ensure the continuation of all constructive social activities as well as potential new ones. Otherwise, he may become increasingly lost in asocial and fantasy preoccupations. Excessive social pressure, however, should be avoided because the offender's tolerance and competencies in this area are likely to be limited. Initial brief and focused treatment techniques will aid him in developing more skills in this area.

## **End of Report**

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ITEM RESPONSES

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