

## **Explanation of Decision splits for the Alternate Primary JICS Classification Instrument**

**Current Offense Assaultive Felony:** - Is the inmate's current charge(s) or convictions) one of the offenses listed on the ASSAULTIVE FELONY CRIME list requiring a "YES" response?

**Prior Assaultive Felony Convictions:** - Does the inmate have a conviction history of one or more of the assaultive felony type offenses listed on the ASSAULTIVE FELONY CRIME list? While a "yes" response is required if a history of prior felony assault convictions exists, consideration may be given to the elapsed time of the prior conviction which could be grounds for override consideration after completion of the tree. For example, a prior conviction for felonious assault ten years ago may be given override consideration if the classification officer feels it is warranted.

**Escape History:** - Is there a current charge or prior record of an escape or attempt from a secure correctional facility? Note: If there is a record of a walk-away from a non-secure facility or court ordered program such as a half-way house, work release center, or residential program, answer "no" to this risk split. The circumstances of the "walk-away" should, however, be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If it is felt that the circumstances surrounding the walkaway presently warrant an escape security concern, use the **override** option documenting your reason for the concern and assign the appropriate security/custody level.

**3 or More Prior Felony Convictions-** - Does the inmate have a record of 3 or more prior felony **convictions, not including the current offense(s)**, in the past **5 years of street time**? Street time is defined as that period of time not spent in a correctional facility. Convictions prior to the past five years of street time, other than those crimes listed on the ASSAULTIVE FELONY CRIME list, should not be included. Juvenile non-assaultive felony type convictions would be included if they fall within the last 5 year street time period.

**Detainer, Warrants or Pending Charges:** - Are there any outstanding warrants, liens, detainees or pending charges (excluding the charges for which the inmate is being booked, except if booked specifically for an outstanding warrant. Note: This may require individual facility policy decisions on seriousness of outstanding charges to justify a higher security level. For example, an outstanding traffic warrant with a limited "pick-up" radius may, by department consensus, not be considered as a "yes" response in the tree. You may also wish to designate probation/parole violation holds which are still pending a disposition decision as a "Yes" response here as well.

**Known Past/Present Institutional Behavior Problem:** - Has or is the inmate observing the rules and regulations of the facility? Is the inmate disrupting the facility, intimidating or threatening fellow inmates or staff? Is the inmate cooperating with the staff and facility routine? Has the inmate received a major misconduct ticket or multiple minor misconduct tickets during this or previous incarcerations?

A serious behavior problem is one in which assaultive behavior or serious acts or threats of aggression against staff or other inmates has occurred.

Jail Administration in conjunction with the classification staff will need to reach consensus on what constitutes an "institutional behavior problem" which, as a result, produces a higher security/custody level. Typically, smaller jails have a more conservative definition of the problem than do larger jails. It is important for all jails, however, that the criteria used for making this determination be consistent among all classification staff.

**Pre-Sentence or Post Sentence:** - is the inmate pre-sentence or post-sentence status? If the inmate has multiple charges, all charges must be disposed of prior to being considered post sentence.

If Pre-sentence –

**Is the Inmate Likely Prison Bound?** – In your best judgement, based on the current charges and offender's criminal history is this inmate likely to receive a prison sentence if convicted? (Michigan example e.g. Charged/Convicted of A, B or C Felony) Answer Yes or No.

If post-sentence -

**Current Offense Felony or Misdemeanor:** - Is the most serious current conviction a felony or a misdemeanor? If the most serious offense is a civil offense consider it as a misdemeanor for purposes of the decision split.

**Community Ties:** - Does the inmate have immediate family in the community and/or has the inmate resided in the area for one year or longer and/or has the inmate been steadily employed in the area for six or more of the last twelve months? Note: This decision split is intended to determine the inmate's ties to the community. Each jail will need to determine what constitutes their geographic range definition of "community".

**Overrides:** - If it is determined that circumstances requiring a deviation from the primary decision tree resulting in a security designation that is other than what would routinely occur by following the decision tree, it is designated an **override**. If you find it necessary to override the tree classification complete the tree through the normal procedure then circle override (on the manual form) and note your reason in the designated area. Then assign the custody/security level appropriate for this inmate.

**High Risk:** - Is a red flag identifying an inmate as being a grave threat to themselves (suicidal) or to the staff or fellow inmates (system risk). As a result of a **high risk** designation, a special high visibility or isolation placement may be warranted. If a high risk designation is warranted, circle the high risk box and note the specific reason in the comment section of the instrument. a high risk designation may or may not require an override to the decision tree. If it does require a deviation from the decision tree, complete the tree through normal procedure, note the override and reason and assign the appropriate custody/security level.

**Special Condition:** - Is a flag identifying an inmate as having a need or condition which requires special attention such as a physical or mental handicap, diet restrictions, alcohol or drug withdrawal.

If a special condition exists, circle the special condition box and note the reason for the designation. A special condition may or may not require an override to the decision tree. If it does require a deviation from the decision tree, complete the tree through normal procedure, note the override and reason and assign the appropriate custody/security level.