

**NORTH CAROLINA Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and  
Substance Abuse Services  
Risk Identification Tool  
Instructions**

The North Carolina Risk Identification Tool (Tool) is a means to discuss potential risks as it relates to the participant's daily life. The process is intended to provide information related to areas of the participant's life that may be interpreted as risks with consideration of life style choices. The process is intended to gather information concerning potential risks for participants in order to develop outcomes to minimize potential risks.

The Tool is not used to limit or prevent the individual from experiencing all risks, but is to identify and review risks proactively. Proper identification of potential risks provides the participant opportunities to develop skills and become more independent. The Tool is not inclusive of all possible risks but a point to start an honest conversation with the participant and family related to the environment in which they live.

The Tool can **not** be completed in isolation by one person. It requires a conversation with the participant, individuals who know the participant, and service providers. The Tool reviews risk from:

- all view points
- different environments
- different activities

This process examines each risk, the severity of the risk and evaluates the risks as to potential for learning and options for natural safeguards to be used.

In the case of potential health and safety risks that may cause harm or danger to the participant, the team shall work with the participant to create proactive strategies and interventions to support the participant in maintaining an acceptable degree of health and safety. These strategies and interventions are incorporated within the Person Centered Plan and /or crisis plan as needed to appropriately address the identified risks.

The Tool should be updated as the participant's needs change and at least annually.

Documentation of differences of opinion may be included on the Tool. All individuals participating in the process must sign the Risk Identification Tool indicating their involvement.