

Survey to Chief APOs

Issue: ORAS & LSI-R completing assessment

Question (from Washington County)

Do other counties have a social service agency completing their ORAS or LSI-R assessments? Here in Washington County, there seems to be a territorial issue with the County wanting to have our Human Service Division complete the ORAS as opposed to the APO. Therefore, the whole dynamic has been put on hold for a considerable amount of time as we are still not doing ORAS assessments, even though the entire APO is certified to do them, and I mean everyone, clerical, sworn, ancillary, etc.

I anticipate this question will arise as we hopefully come to a conclusion in the near future, so I am being preemptive, maybe I am wrong, the possibility exists that this could be a thing. I would be interested in knowing if either in-house, or outside contracted agencies that are not a criminal justice entity is doing them?

Adams County

Adult probation staff complete the LS/CMI

Allegheny County

PO's complete the LSI-R.

A few years back we looked at the possibility of an assessment unit staffed by LSWs and people with psychology backgrounds. We quickly dismissed the idea after a few meetings mainly based on the same comments April posted.

Berks County

Only PO. I echo April's comments. Court staff produce a court document. Jon, does your human service division complete the safety assessments for your children and youth?

Bradford County

PO's complete their own assessments

Carbon County

Only adult probation staff complete

Centre County

PO's complete their own ORAS assessments

Clinton County

APO complete the assessments

Columbia County

Officers complete the assessment

Cumberland County

PO's do the ORAS

Delaware County

APO's complete the ORAS assessments

Erie County

Only APD staff conduct ORAS

Forest County

Probation completes ORAS

Greene County

Only PO's complete them

Huntington County

APO's complete the LSI-R

Lackawanna County

ORAS assessment is completed by adult probation officers only

Lancaster County

Adult probation staff complete the LS/CMI

Lawrence County

Probation officers complete the ORAS

Lebanon County

Only our department and the Treatment court Coordinator out of the DA's Office (who used to work in our department) complete assessments. I agree with April. An outside agency would not have access to a lot of relevant information needed to conduct the assessment.

Lehigh County

Does not

Lycoming County

APO completes the LSI

Mifflin County

PO's do all their own ORAS assessments

Northampton County

APO do our own

Northumberland County

PO's complete the assessments

Pike County

PO's complete the ORAS

Somerset County

APO completes COMPAS. We will be looking into new risk assessment in the near future

Venango County

Our officers complete the ORAS

Warren County

PO's conduct the ORAS

Wayne County

APO's complete all ORAS assessments

Westmoreland County

Probation officers complete the ORAS assessments

York County

Probation officers and intake support specialist complete the ORAS assessment.

How can human services complete the assessment when they don't have access to prior record and other relevant information in order to complete an accurate assessment?

Couple more thoughts on this:

- Part of the reason that a probation officer should complete this assessment is so they can build engagement with the defendant and use the results to build the case plan. Why would we make the defendant tell their story twice and the first time to someone that may or may not continue to be involved in their case.
- How does Human Services, an executive branch agency, get off telling the Courts, a separate and equal branch of government, what they can and cannot do?

This baffles me