



# Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Certification Tip Sheet

## in BRIEF

Briefs are provided as a best practice reference or topic example to support communities in developing the family partner role.

### CERTIFICATION WEB PAGE TCOMTRAINING.COM



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### GETTING STARTED:

The webpage to the left is your access to start the process of CANS certification. Create a user name and password. Follow questions and enter Oregon as your state, and then choose your agency (i.e. OFSN).

Under "My Courses" you would want to select the 6 - 20 course to start the study process. A separate exam is available in the 0-5 age range.

### THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS: HELPFUL INFORMATION

ANYONE can become CANS rater certified. This includes providers, families, and youth.

You have up to 3 attempts to pass the certification exam.

Watch all informational videos. Read all information given.

Multiple practice tests are available to prepare you for the final certification test. Take these! Read over the sites explanations for any incorrect scores.

Be mindful that we do not count acute, sub-acute, or incarceration levels of care when looking at the 30-day window. It's like a "pause" for the youth. For example, if a youth has a high score for running away in January, and is then put in detention for the month of February, when the youth gets out we would still score him high on running away in March. This is because it was about the "Facility" not about the child's risk or behavior that was changed. The child Could NOT run away in detention, so it tells us nothing about the actual behavior change, risk or need for our new 30-day window.

Only "Trauma" can extend beyond the 30-day window of scoring.

It was shown that for the section of "Suicide Risk", self-harming behaviors did not affect the score. There is a separate section for self-harming concerns and needs. This inconsistency has been brought to the attention of the Praed Foundation.

### TIPS

- Take your time! Schedule out 2 to 4 hours for the entire certification process.
- Watch ALL videos.
- Read the comments other participants have left. They can be very helpful.
- Print the 6 – 20 manual for reference.
- Print the strengths and needs scores for reference. Many have received low scores do to mistakenly using the wrong set of numbers from not "flipping them" between Strengths and Needs.
- Remember it's about WHAT is happening to the youth and not WHY.
- Do not create needs that are absent in the vignette.
- Group test taking is not recommended.

