

# PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDING TO UNDERAGE DRINKING OFFENDERS<sup>1</sup>

Practice Guideline 1: Conduct initial screening for alcohol problems at the first and subsequent contacts between underage drinkers and the justice system.

Practice Guideline 2: Assess the risk and needs of youth.

Practice Guideline 3: Assess for strengths and assets.

Practice Guideline 4: Assess for substance abuse problems.

Practice Guideline 5: Determine the most appropriate system-level response and individual-level intervention(s) and develop an individualized case plan.

Practice Guideline 6: Identify each offender's readiness to change and prompt him/her to make positive changes using motivational interviewing techniques.

Practice Guideline 7: Refer underage drinking offenders with alcohol disorders to appropriate alcohol treatment and monitor their attendance and participation.

Practice Guideline 8: Engage family and social networks of support in the supervision process.

Practice Guideline 9: Monitor compliance with supervision conditions and case plan expectations.

Practice Guideline 10: Apply sanctions for noncompliance, when necessary, and increase positive reinforcement.

---

<sup>1</sup> Excerpted from *Underage Drinking: Prevention and Intervention Principles for Community Corrections*. Draft. Developed by the American Probation and Parole Association. Funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.