

## MONTANA SCALE FOR CHILDREN / ADOLESCENTS With Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)

### SED DEFINITION

Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) is the inclusive term for children and adolescents whose emotional and mental disturbances severely limit their development and welfare over **a significant period** of time and requires a comprehensive coordinated system of care to meet their needs.

### SED DETERMINATION

Serious emotional disturbance (SED) means, with respect to a youth between the ages of 6 and 17 years, that the youth meets requirements of A and either B or C. The severity of the child's/ adolescent's disorder (disturbance?) may place or potentially place him/her at significant risk for out of school, home or community placement. **Indicate the appropriate response to each of the areas below.**

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

**A. PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS:** The youth has been determined by a licensed mental health professional as having an SED diagnosis as described within the Children's Mental Health Bureau Medicaid Services Provider Manual July 2018. <https://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/CMB/Manuals>

**PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS:** (See above Manual, ICD 10 Name and Code) and date (annual reassessment is required)

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

**B. FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT:** As a result of the youth's diagnosis determined in A and for a period of at least 6 months, or for a predictable period over 6 months, the youth consistently and persistently demonstrates behavioral abnormality in two or more spheres, to a significant degree, well outside normative developmental expectations, that cannot be attributed to intellectual, sensory, or health factors: PLEASE CHECK THE BOXES AND COMPLETE AS EVIDENCED BY

has failed to establish or maintain developmentally and culturally appropriate relationships with adult care givers or authority figures;

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

has failed to demonstrate or maintain developmentally and culturally appropriate peer relationships;

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

has failed to demonstrate a developmentally appropriate range and expression of emotion or mood;

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

has displayed disruptive behavior sufficient to lead to isolation in or from school, home, therapeutic or recreation settings;

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

has displayed behavior that is seriously detrimental to the youth's growth, development, safety or welfare, or to the safety or welfare of others;

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

has displayed behavior resulting in substantial documented disruption to the family including, but not limited to, adverse impact on the ability of family members to secure or maintain gainful employment.

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

**OR For Youth under 6 years of age:**

What ICD 10 Code and Name you are treating

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

**D. CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE:** Serious emotional disturbance (SED) with respect to a youth under 6 years of age means the youth exhibits a severe behavioral abnormality that cannot be attributed to intellectual, sensory, or health factors and that results in substantial impairment in functioning for a period of at least 6 months and obviously predictable to continue for an additional period of at least 6 months, as manifested by one or more of the following:

atypical, disruptive or dangerous behavior which is aggressive or self-injurious;

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

atypical emotional responses which interfere with the child's functioning, such as an inability to communicate emotional needs and to tolerate normal frustrations;

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

atypical thinking patterns which, considering age and developmental expectations, are bizarre, violent or hypersexual;

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

lack of positive interests in adults and peers or a failure to initiate or respond to most social interaction;

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

indiscriminate sociability (e.g., excessive familiarity with strangers) that results in a risk of personal safety of the child;

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

inappropriate and extreme fearfulness or other distress which does not respond to comfort by care givers.

**AS EVIDENCED BY**

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Revised  
Approved:  
MT Children's Mental Health Bureau