

## ADOLESCENT FAILURE SYNDROME TEST

AN AIDE TO PARENTS CONCERNED ABOUT CHILDREN WHO MAY BE HARMFULLY INVOLVED WITH DRUGS.

	DOES NOT APPLY	POSSIBLY APPLIES	DEFINITELY APPLIES
1. A change in the family's communication with the adolescent. Refusal to take part in discussions concerning unacceptable behavior. Previous closeness may dissipate and disciplinary talk is interrupted either by "he tunes me out" or angry outbursts.	0	1	2
2. Refusal of the adolescent to recognize the impact on the family of unacceptable behavior, e.g., arguments or intoxicated events or delinquent acts.	0	2	4
3. Concern expressed by others, i.e., siblings, classmates, teachers, other family members, or authority figures, concerning personality change, suspected drug usage, or traveling with the "wrong crowd".	0	2	4
4. Expressed concern for oneself, e.g., "I'm worried I might get involved with drugs or alcohol", or "my life is meaningless, and I want to die".	0	2	4
5. Involvement in hard rock music, preoccupation with rock stars, attendance at rock concerts.	0	1	2
6. "Rebellious" dress style e.g., rock beer commercial t-shirts, army jackets, worn jeans, long hair.	0	1	2
7. Poor choice of friends, choosing to be with kids known or suspected of being delinquent and/or involved with drugs and alcohol.	0	2	4
8. Mysterious comings and goings, frequent unexplained telephone calls and visits by unfamiliar youth.	0	2	4
9. Change in social group, grade school friends left behind for a more "down and out group".	0	2	4
10. Incidents of untrustworthiness, particularly incorrect explanations of absence from school or lies about location of parties or parental chaperoning.	0	2	4
11. Unexcused absences from school or missed classes.	0	1	2
12. Minor or major delinquent involvement, especially where participants were intoxicated or drugs were involved	0	2	4
13. Any violence or threat of violence toward parents or siblings.	0	2	4
14. Any violent episode away from home, including injury to self or others.	0	2	4
15. Minor or major automobile accidents.	0	1	2
16. Vocal disrespect for parents, teachers or other authorities.	0	1	2
17. Unhealthy relationships. This includes a variety of unfortunate social styles, e.g., isolation from any close friends, choice of older, perhaps delinquent friends, or choice of a single friend to the exclusion of all others. No healthy involvement or interest in the opposite sex.	0	1	2

18. Premature adult behaviors, e.g, seductive dress or behavior, pseudo-sophisticated "existential" concerns, unreasonable questioning, or rejection of family values, especially regarding "recreational" drug usage.
19. Early sexual involvement, e.g., concerns of pregnancy or discovery of birth control materials.
20. Mood swings, such as depression, irritability, or unexplained euphoria and talkativeness.
21. Sleep disturbances, particularly staying awake for long periods at night, or going to bed immediately after supper or returning home.
22. A drop in grade averages, perhaps accompanied by a stated loss of interest in academic pursuits.
23. Money problems: Missing money from purses or coin collections at home or babysitting jobs or homes of grandparents or holds a steady job but does not show money in savings.
24. Annoyance of tantrums occur when questioned, e.d., about possible drug involvement.
25. Cigarette smoking.
26. Discovery of marijuana, pills or alcohol. Missing bottles of liquor or diluted liquor in the family supply.
27. Discovery of a diary recounting drug experiences or involvement with the drug scene, or finding notes stating usage or drug exchange.
28. Episodes of intoxication, either marijuana or alcohol.

DOES NOT APPLY	POSSIBLY APPLIES	DEFINITELY APPLIES
0	1	2
0	2	4
0	2	4
0	2	4
0	1	2
0	2	4
0	2	4
0	2	4
0	2	4
0	2	4
0	2	4

Parents should score their children on each item: 0 for not at all; the intermediate column for possible or single occurrence; and the "Definitely Applies" column where it applies without question or there has been more than one instance. The entire score on all items should then be added. A total of 8 should be viewed as suggestive, that is worthy of gathering further information; a score of 12 or more is probable for harmful involvement with drugs worthy of further data gathering and an evaluation by a knowledgeable person. A score of 16 or more should be viewed as nearly diagnostic, a full evaluation should be carried out and serious consideration should be given to seeking treatment.

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 David G. Logan M.D.  
 Ronald E. Harrison  
 2217 Packard Rd., Suite 13  
 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

STRAIGHT, INC.  
 P. O. Box 9  
 Milford, Ohio 45150  
 (513) 575-2673