Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED) CRITERIA CHECKLIST

SED determination is based on the age of the individual, functional impairment or symptoms, diagnoses and duration of the disorder. The child/adolescent must meet all of the following four criteria:

1. Age:
   - be a person under the age of 18;
   - OR
   - be a person between the ages of 18 and 21, who received services prior to the 18th birthday, was diagnosed with an SED, and demonstrates a continued need for services

2. Functional Impairment or Symptoms:
   - Functional Impairment in two of the following capacities (compared with expected developmental level):
     - Functioning in self-care:
       Impairment in self-care is manifested by a person's consistent inability to take care of personal grooming, hygiene, clothes, and meeting of nutritional needs.
     - Functioning in community:
       Impairment in community function is manifested by a consistent lack of age-appropriate behavioral controls, decision-making, judgment and value systems which result in potential involvement or involvement in the juvenile justice system.
     - Functioning in social relationships:
       Impairment of social relationships is manifested by the consistent inability to develop and maintain satisfactory relationships with peers and adults.
     - Functioning in the family:
       Impairment in family function is manifested by a pattern of significantly disruptive behavior exemplified by repeated and/or unprovoked violence to siblings and/or parents, disregard for safety and welfare of self or others (e.g., fire setting, serious and chronic destructiveness, inability to conform to reasonable expectations that may result in removal from the family or its equivalent).
   - Functioning at school/work:
     Impairment in any one of the following:
     - The inability to pursue educational goals in a normal time frame (e.g. consistently failing grades, repeated truancy, expulsion, property damage or violence toward others).
     - Identification by an IEP team as having an Emotional/Behavioral Disability.
     - The inability to be consistently employed at a self-sustaining level (e.g., inability to conform to work schedule, poor relationships with supervisor and other workers, hostile behavior on the job).

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Symptoms — the child/adolescent must have one of the following:

- **Psychotic symptoms:**
  Serious mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia) characterized by defective or lost contact with reality, often with hallucinations or delusions.

- **Danger to self, others and property as a result of emotional disturbance:**
  The individual is self-destructive, e.g. at risk for suicide, runaway, promiscuity, and/or at risk for causing injury to persons or significant damage to property.

3. **Diagnoses:** The child/adolescent has an emotional and/or behavioral disability that has been diagnosed by a licensed psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, LISW, LMFT, or LPCC under the classification system in the *American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV-TR) from the following list:

   - **Adult diagnostic categories appropriate for children and adolescents**
     - Substance Dependence Disorders (303.90 - 304.90)
     - Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders (293.81, 293.82, 295.10 – 295.90, 297.1, 297.3, 298.9)
     - Mood Disorders (293.83, 296.00 – 296.90, 300.4, 301.13, 311)
     - Anxiety Disorders (293.89, 300.00 – 300.02, 300.16 – 300.3, 300.7, 308.3, 309.81)
     - Somatoform Disorders (300.11, 300.81)
     - Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders (302.2 – 302.6, 302.85, 302.89, 302.9)
     - Impulse Control Disorders (312.30, 312.33, 312.34)

   - **Disorders usually first diagnosed in infancy, childhood, or adolescence**
     - Attention-Deficit and Disruptive Behavior Disorders (312.8, 314.00 – 314.9)
     - Reactive Attachment Disorder of Infancy or Early Childhood (313.89)

4. **Duration:**

   - has an emotional disability that has persisted for at least six months;  
     AND  
   - that same disability must be expected to persist for a year or longer.