

SERIOUS EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE

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Serious emotional disturbance (SED) means with respect to a youth from age 6 through 17, that the youth meets requirements of (a), and (b).

(a) The youth has been determined by a licensed mental health professional as having a mental disorder with a primary diagnosis falling within one of the following DSM-IV (or successor) classifications when applied to the youth's current presentation (current means within the past 12 calendar months unless otherwise specified in the DSM-IV) and the diagnosis has a severity specifier of moderate or severe:

- i. childhood schizophrenia (295.10, 295.20, 295.30, 295.60,
- ii. 295.90);
- iii. oppositional defiant disorder (313.81);
- iv. autistic disorder (299.00);
- v. pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (299.80);
- vi. Asperger's disorder (299.80);
- vii. separation anxiety disorder (309.21);
- viii. reactive attachment disorder of infancy or early childhood (313.89);
- ix. schizo affective disorder (295.70);
- x. mood disorders (296.0x, 296.2x, 296.3x, 296.4x, 296.5x, 296.6x, 296.7, 296.80, 296.89);
- xi. obsessive-compulsive disorder (300.3);
- xii. dysthymic disorder (300.4);
- xiii. cyclothymic disorder (301.13);
- xiv. generalized anxiety disorder (overanxious disorder) (300.02);
- xv. posttraumatic stress disorder (chronic) (309.81);
- xvi. dissociative identity disorder (300.14);
- xvii. sexual and gender identity disorder (302.2, 302.3, 302.4,
- xviii. 302.6, 302.82, 302.83, 302.84, 302.85, 302.89);
- xix. anorexia nervosa (severe) (307.1);
- xx. bulimia nervosa (severe) (307.51); and
- xxi. intermittent explosive disorder (312.34); and
- xxii. attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (314.00, 314.01, 314.9) when accompanied by at least one of the diagnoses listed above.

(b) 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:

- i. has failed to establish or maintain developmentally and culturally appropriate relationships with adult care givers or authority figures;
- ii. has failed to demonstrate or maintain developmentally and culturally appropriate peer relationships;

- iii. has failed to demonstrate a developmentally appropriate range and expression of emotion or mood;
- iv. has displayed disruptive behavior sufficient to lead to isolation in or from school, home, therapeutic or recreation settings;
- v. has displayed behavior that is seriously detrimental to the youth's growth, development, safety or welfare, or to the safety or welfare of others; or
- vi. 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.

(c) 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 a period of at least 6 months, as manifested by one or more of the following:

- i. atypical, disruptive or dangerous behavior which is aggressive or self-injurious;
- ii. atypical emotional responses which interfere with the child's functioning, such as an inability to communicate emotional needs and to tolerate normal frustrations;
- iii. atypical thinking patterns which, considering age and developmental expectations, are bizarre, violent or hypersexual;
- iv. lack of positive interests in adults and peers or a failure to initiate or respond to most social interaction;
- v. indiscriminate sociability (e.g., excessive familiarity with strangers) that results in a risk of personal safety of the child; or
- vi. inappropriate and extreme fearfulness or other distress which does not respond to comfort by care givers.