



## The Breadth of Defense Maps

July 14, 2020

One of the several remarkable things about dedicated defense professionals is how they press on with only a small fraction of the prosecution's resources. Please see more about this unconstitutional reality in [The Constitutional Case for Incarcerated Persons' Access to DefenseMaps.com](#).

Above all, we want [DefenseMap.com](#) to be a powerful asset for these defense professionals who have always been endeavoring to uncover as much as possible for the optimal representation of their clients.

The following is a *partial* list of the topics covered in *DefenseMap.com*.

1. What's most on the client's mind now?
2. For those who are held on bail, what are the many specifics of the possible assurances they will appear, cooperate, and act lawfully? And what are the details of up to 14 reasons for pretrial that are commonly overlooked in the assessments in use by many courts and prosecutor offices?
  - a. A high school degree or more.
  - b. Lack of a youth arrest record.
  - c. Compliance with the terms of any prior releases.
  - d. Compliance with the terms of any times on probation or parole.
  - e. A safe residence.
  - f. Ties to the community.
  - g. Responsible people to associate with.
  - h. Responsible activities to engage in.
  - i. A current or possible job.
  - j. The specifics of any changes the client wishes to make in his or her life.
  - k. An Index of Supporters (including names and contact information, their relationship to the client, their trustworthiness, and the specific assistance they are to the client).
  - l. Extreme hardship to the client from continued detention.
  - m. Extreme hardship to others from the client's continued detention.
  - n. All the additional mitigation available in Sections 21 and 22 of the Defense Map.
3. What are all the factors the client thinks played a role in the charged events (including ones explaining the client's involvement or establishing her innocence)?
4. What are client's reflections looking back on the charged events?
5. What are the client's feelings about any victims?
6. Was the client molested as a child?

7. Was he abused in any of multiple other ways—and in what specific respects and to what outcomes?
8. What dysfunctions afflicted the family of origin and what specific traumas did the client suffer—and what were the consequences? And what are the details to over 100 questions about these?
9. Of 10 important childhood assets, which were present, which were partially missing, and which were completely missing—and in what particulars and to what results?
10. What are the details of the client's education?
11. What are the details of the client's work history?
12. What are the details of the client's health history (including current status, diagnoses, medications, head injuries, and more)?
13. What are the details of any military service?
14. How does the client use his free time—and what are the consequences of that?
15. What PTSD does she carry, from what, and with what repercussions and what role in the case at hand?
16. Has the client had a controlling or hurtful partner and, if so, in which of 15 categories abuse and to what consequence in her life, relationships, and thinking? (This topic is another instance in which the breadth of invaluable inquiry is so broad—encompassing over 100 questions—to itself put into permanent doubt the adequacy of face-to-face interview alone.)
17. Of 14 important life assets in adulthood, which are currently present, partially missing, or completely missing in the client's life—and in what particulars and to what results?
  - a. Good physical health.
  - b. Safety in all parts of one's life.
  - c. Good peace of mind/freedom from worry most of the time.
  - d. A lot of joy/happiness.
  - e. A loving and helpful family life.
  - f. At least 3 good friends who can be called on anytime.
  - g. Satisfying work.
  - h. Satisfying volunteer work.
  - i. A lot of purpose/feeling that one's life matters.
  - j. A good balance between work, rest, and play.
  - k. Enough money/financial security.
  - l. A place to live—without fear of losing it.

- m. Good feelings and trust for police and other authorities.
  - n. A satisfying spiritual life.
18. What mood and functioning issues does the client have—and how would he describe their source and consequences?
- a. Depression.
  - b. Thoughts of hurting oneself.
  - c. Thoughts of hurting others.
  - d. Uncommon anger.
  - e. Unusual anxiety.
  - f. Attention difficulties.
  - g. Hyperactivity.
  - h. Issues with sex or sexuality.
  - i. Issues with memory.
  - j. Racing thoughts.
  - k. Hearing or seeing things others don't.
  - l. Feeling someone is out to get them.
  - m. Repetitious behaviors without clear purpose or reason.
  - n. Difficulties building or keeping good relationships.
  - o. Any other mood or functioning issues.
19. Has the client ever attempted suicide—and what were the exact reasons and circumstances?
20. Have there been other self-destructive patterns?
21. What counseling has occurred, what were the topics and outcomes, and what wish does the client have for further counseling?
22. What negative and positive relationships does the client have and what decisions does he want to make about ending, curtailing, getting help with, or expanding any of those?
23. What specific alcohol, drug, gambling, or other addictive patterns has the client shown—and what are the exact particulars involved, including any wish for help?
24. What specific life changes is the client interested in pursuing, what specific steps would he consider important to each, and which steps are already underway (including in each of these 11 areas)?
- a. In relationships.
  - b. In education.
  - c. In work and work skills.
  - d. In alcohol or drug use.
  - e. In counseling.
  - f. In finances and spending.

- g. In living arrangements.
- h. In ways of handling problems.
- i. In better use of a personal strength or special skill.
- j. In addressing immigration/citizenship status.
- k. In any other changes the client is interested in.

25. What special strengths does the client have, and what better use might he want to make of those strengths?

26. What heroic and giving things has she done?

27. Who relies on him? And who would be damaged by his absence—and in what specific ways?

28. Who can speak highly of her—and what specifically can they say?

29. Who can offer life assistance to the client, and what are the specifics of that assistance?

Again, [The Constitutional Case for Incarcerated Persons' Access to DefenseMaps.com](#) more fully addresses the systemic failure to deliver the defense the “balance of forces” promised in *Wardius v. Oregon*, 412 U.S. 470, 93 S.Ct. 2208, 37 L.Ed.2d 82 (1973).

We hope the breadth of Defense Maps helps make it obvious that committed defense attorneys deserve this help in discharging their vital constitutional duties to accused persons.