

COULD IT BE FASD?

Do you see clients returning again and again?

Why recognition matters

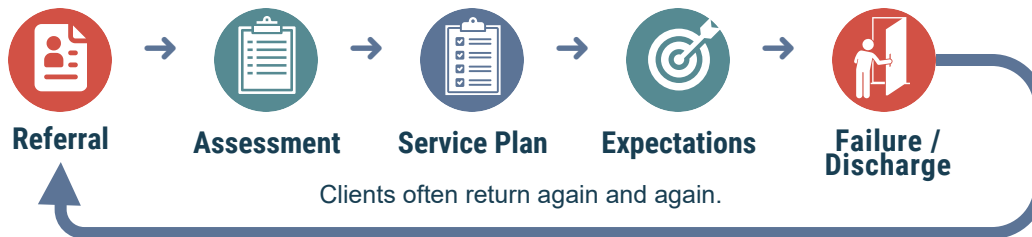
MISSED OR MISDIAGNOSED

People with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) may also carry diagnoses such as ADHD, autism, trauma-related conditions, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, or other mental health conditions. These conditions can coexist with FASD, which may still go unrecognized.

An alphabet soup of diagnoses can be a red flag.

A COMMON SERVICE PATHWAY

Services may be asking for skills the disability affects.



SIGNS IT COULD BE FASD

- An alphabet soup of diagnoses
- Repeated failure despite increasing services
- Adaptive functioning much lower than verbal or cognitive ability
- Appears to understand, but cannot consistently carry things out
- Significant variability from day to day
- Difficulty learning from past experiences
- Receptive language may be weaker than expressive language
- Acts or functions younger than expected for age
- May not understand danger
- Vulnerable to exploitation

FASD MAY AFFECT

- Memory
- Executive functioning
- Processing
- Regulation
- Judgement
- Adaptive functioning
- Generalization of learning
- Receptive language
- Cause-and-effect understanding
- Abstract reasoning
- Cognition

HOW THIS MAY LOOK AT DIFFERENT AGES

CHILDREN AND TEENS



- School struggles
- Emotional overwhelm
- Caregiver carrying executive functioning load
- Repeated behavior, school or placement concerns
- Home instability
- Interaction with drugs, alcohol, or the law can begin as early as age 12



ADULTS

- Missed appointments
- Incomplete paperwork
- Crisis cycling
- Unstable follow-through
- Appearing capable while not managing daily demands independently
- Housing instability
- Justice involvement



WHAT IS FASD?

A lifelong brain-based disability affecting core brain functions, caused by prenatal alcohol exposure.

1 in 20

people may have FASD.



DIAGNOSTIC CAPACITY
Extremely limited.



ONLY ABOUT 1%
are diagnosed.



PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Most professionals receive little to no FASD-specific training.