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CONTACT: Jim Kelly 877.277.3778  
[jkelly@assessments.com](mailto:jkelly@assessments.com)

## **The PACT is the cover story in *Juvenile and Family Justice Today***

**Bountiful, UT** – The PACT, the risk/needs assessment and case planning system implemented statewide in Florida as a collaboration between the FL Department of Juvenile Justice and Assessments.com is the feature story in the Winter 2007 issue of *Juvenile and Family Justice Today*, a national magazine published quarterly by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ).

The PACT (Positive Achievement Change Tool), is an evidence-based, 4<sup>th</sup> generation instrument which is automated, integratable with any MIS, and designed to accomplish four basic objectives:

1. Determine a youth's level of risk for re-offending as a way to target resources to higher-risk youth.
2. Identify the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so that the rehabilitative effort can be tailored to address the youth's unique assessment profile.
3. Develop an automated case management plan focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.
4. Allow managers to determine if targeted factors change as a result of the court's intervention.

As Associate Chief Judge Lester Langer of the Miami-Dade Juvenile Division says in a sidebar to the main story, "Because the PACT gives me a clear picture of a youth's whole range of risk and protective factors, my time with him or her can be more interactive and productive... I am a believer in the efficacy of EBP, and the PACT is producing evidence of a kind we have not had before... I believe the PACT will enable us to fully use our professional judgment to increase public safety and focus rehabilitative efforts on each individual youth to help turn his or her life around."

Assessments.com has nine years experience developing and implementing automated, integrated risk/needs classification and case management systems, and has worked with criminal justice jurisdictions in 14 states and scores of counties across the U.S. We have also provided numerous staff training programs focusing on the theory and application of Evidence-Based Practices, the [effective implementation of new assessments and accompanying EBP processes](#), successful case management principles, and motivational interviewing skills.

If you need assistance with introducing or enhancing evidence-based practices in your [jurisdiction](#), including [implementation of either a juvenile assessment tool like the PACT, or an adult tool like the risk, needs assessment and supervision planning system we are currently implementing with the Washington Department of Corrections](#), please call Assessments.com toll-free at 877-277-3778, or visit us at [www.assessments.com](http://www.assessments.com).