

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND ACADEMIC PROBLEMS IN YOUTHS: A MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY APPROACH

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Abstract

Multisystemic Therapy (MST) is a community and home based intervention and an evidence based programme designed to work with families where adolescents in the family are behaving in a seriously antisocial way (getting in trouble with the law, running away from home and going missing, being aggressive and violent, misusing illegal substances, failing academically, etc) and are at risk of a out-of-home placements (to be removed from the family home and put in foster placements, youth detention centres, residential schools) due to their problematic behaviour, in the home, the school and in the community. This article will give a brief outline of what MST is and will present the approach MST takes when working with antisocial youths where academic and educational problems are part of the referral behaviours. Clinical foundations of MST are outlined, the MST theory of change, and through a case study, clinical and educational interventions that multisystemic therapists use when helping the youths and families overcome school problems are presented.

Keywords: multisystemic therapy; antisocial behaviour; school problematic behaviour

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