

Structured Decision-Making Scorecard

Score each domain from 1 to 5 based on what is documented in the record. Then apply the decision rules below to select the right level of preparation work.

Scoring anchors: 1 = urgent gap • 2 = clear weakness • 3 = mixed or inconsistent • 4 = mostly strong • 5 = hearing-ready and documented.

Priority: mark H (High), M (Medium), or L (Low) for what to tackle next. **Notes:** cite specific evidence — chronos, program completions, draft plans, letters.

Case Snapshot

Client name		CDCR #	
Facility		Hearing date (if set)	
Case type (Lifer / YOPH / Elderly)		Last decision date	
CRA date (if completed)		Last serious RVR / 115 date	
Commitment offense(s)		Counselor / CCI	
Attorney		Date scorecard completed	

Readiness Domains

Readiness domain	Score (1–5)	Priority	Notes / evidence
Insight & narrative consistency Causative factors, accountability, remorse, victim impact, and a clear change story that tracks across interviews, chronos, and writings.	1 2 3 4 5	H M L	
CRA alignment Demonstrates understanding of the Comprehensive Risk Assessment	1 2 3 4 5	H M L	

Readiness domain	Score (1–5)	Priority	Notes / evidence
findings and addresses each identified dynamic risk factor and criminogenic need.			
Institutional behavior Clean 115/128 record or a credible pattern of growth after past violations; stable work and housing assignments; positive staff observations.	1 2 3 4 5	H M L	
Programming depth Not just completions — evidence of learning, application, and sustained change over time (facilitator roles, mentorship, self-help continuity).	1 2 3 4 5	H M L	
Risk management plan Written plan identifying triggers, early warning signs, coping strategies, accountability supports, and contingency steps if plans fail.	1 2 3 4 5	H M L	
Reentry plan realism Concrete housing, employment, treatment, transportation, and financial plans — with backups for each and documented community support.	1 2 3 4 5	H M L	
Support letters & witnesses Quality, credibility, and coordination of family, employer, program, and community letters. Witnesses prepared and realistic about their role.	1 2 3 4 5	H M L	
Hearing skills Mock-hearing readiness, composure under pressure, answer quality, and ability to discuss the crime with insight rather than minimization.	1 2 3 4 5	H M L	

Scoring Your Case

Step 1 — Compute your average

Add the eight scores and divide by eight. Round to one decimal place.

Step 2 — Check for red-flag overrides

Red-flag overrides — any one of these moves the case toward full representation regardless of average score

- Major CRA misalignment — client does not understand or cannot articulate the findings
- Unresolved credibility issues — prior statements, 115s, or interviews contradict current narrative
- Unstable housing plan — no address, no backup, or a plan that conflicts with likely conditions of parole
- Recent serious rules violation (within the last 12–24 months, depending on severity)
- Active mental health or medication instability without a continuity plan
- Sex offense case with no treatment posture and no plan to establish one

Step 3 — Match to service level

Band	Average score	Recommended service match
GREEN	4.2 or higher	Audit or packet review; client is largely hearing-ready and needs targeted polish, witness coordination, and mock-hearing work.
YELLOW	3.2 – 4.1	Sprint engagement — focused work on the two or three weakest domains, then packet assembly and hearing prep.
RED	3.1 or lower	Full representation recommended (or an Audit first if the hearing is far enough out to rebuild from the ground up).