Some Organizing Mechanisms Behind Defense Maps

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DefenseMap.com uses several special organizing mechanisms to collect, organize, and highlight the broad range of information in Defense Maps.

Among other things, these mechanisms choose the questions relevant to each client so that several hundred of the potential questions can be skipped and clients can stay engaged and complete their work in just 2-4 hours.

Here are five of these mechanisms built into the website: (1) case typing, (2) skip logic (or conditional branching), (3) follow-on questioning, (4) issue screening, and (5) amendment indexing.

1. *Case typing* refers to the automatic direction of clients to the correct Map version (adult or juvenile and English or Spanish) and, within each adult version, to the applicable case track: (1) a new case, (2) an effort at shortening incarceration such as by sentence reduction, parole, clemency, or pardon, (3) an appeal, habeas, or other post-conviction challenge, (4) a defense against revocation of probation or parole, or (5) an expungement petition.

2. *Skip logic* (or *conditional branching*) is the selection of questions based on prior responses so that of the over 850 possible questions in the adult version, as many as a few hundred may be skipped as irrelevant.

3. *Follow-on questioning*, roughly the reverse of *skip logic*, actually fashions new questions when their relevance is shown by prior responses.

4. *Issue screening* refers to the detection of special issues that are then highlighted on Maps, including on their Flags Pages.

5. *Amendment indexing* is a feature at the top of each Map showing the date of initial completion—followed by the dates of any amendments and the particular sections where changes were made on any particular date (relieving readers of the confusing task of locating where additions or other changes were made to any earlier iteration of a Map).

For more information on the overall components and benefits of Defense Maps, professionals can see [The Constitutional Case for Defense Maps](#).