Answer all the questions on this tree (1 to 9). Two primary conditions are possible, but rare. Use “Rule Out” when you need more information in making a differential diagnosis.

1. Is there a trauma?
   - chronic enduring stress
   - life threatening event(s) for child or caregiver
   Yes → 100 Traumatic Stress Disorder (19)
   No → Yes → 400 Regulatory Disorders (31)

2. Are there clear constitutional/maturational difficulties associated with the maladaptive behavior?
   Yes → 300 Adjustment Disorder (30)
   No → No → Yes → 200 Disorders of Affect (22)

3. Are the presenting problems mild, of short duration (< 4 months) and associated with a clear environmental event or person?
   Yes → 300 Adjustment Disorder (30)
   No → No → Yes → 200 Disorders of Affect (22)

4. If all of the answers are “No”, then consider Disorders of Affect
   Yes → 200 Disorders of Affect (22)
   No → No → Yes → 200 Disorders of Affect (22)

5. Are there severe difficulties in relating and communicating that involve a chronic pattern of maladaptation?
   Yes → *700 Disorders of Relating and Communicating (40)
   No → No → Yes → 300 Adjustment Disorder (30)

6. Does the difficulty occur only in a certain situation or in relation to a particular person?
   Yes → 300 Adjustment Disorder (30)
   No → No → Yes → 200 Disorders of Affect (22)

7. Is the only difficulty the relationship?
   Yes → Do not use Axis I
   No → No → Yes → 200 Disorders of Affect (22)

8. Is there evidence of an acute pattern of deprivation or maltreatment?
   Yes → *206 Reactive Attachment Deprivation/Maltreatment Disorder of Infancy (28)
   No → No → Yes → 200 Disorders of Affect (22)

9. Remember to consider these:
   - Do not use if problem is due to other Axis I, II, III Disorders

* Diagnosis 700 and 206 take precedence over diagnosis 100 and 400.
[Number(s) in parentheses is the source page number(s) in the manual.]