### Parental Authority Questionnaire

**Instructions:** For each of the following statements, circle the number of the 5-point scale (1 = *strongly disagree*, 5 = *strongly agree*) that best describes how that statement applies to you and your mother. Try to read and think about each statement as it applies to you and your mother during your years of growing up at home. There are no right or wrong answers, so don’t spend a lot of time on any one item. We are looking for your overall impression regarding each statement. Be sure not to omit any items.

1 = Strongly disagree  
2 = Disagree  
3 = Neither agree nor disagree  
4 = Agree  
5 = Strongly Agree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>1 2 3 4 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>While I was growing up my mother felt that in a well-run home the children should have their way in the family as often as the parents do.</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Even if her children didn’t agree with her, my mother felt that it was for our own good if we were forced to conform to what she thought was right.</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Whenever my mother told me to do something as I was growing up, she expected me to do it immediately without asking any questions.</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>As I was growing up, once family policy had been established, my mother discussed the reasoning behind the policy with the children in the family.</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>My mother has always encouraged verbal give-and-take whenever I have felt that family rules and restrictions were unreasonable.</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>My mother has always felt that what her children need is to be free to make up their own minds and to do what they want to do, even if this does not agree with what their parents might want.</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>As I was growing up my mother did not allow me to question any decision she had made.</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>As I was growing up my mother directed the activities and decisions of the children in the family through reasoning and discipline.</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>My mother has always felt that more force should be used by parents in order to get their children to behave the way they are supposed to.</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>As I was growing up my mother did <em>not</em> feel that I needed to obey rules and regulations of behavior simply because someone in authority had established them.</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>As I was growing up I knew what my mother expected of me in</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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my family, but I also felt free to discuss those expectations with my mother when I felt that they were unreasonable.

12. My mother felt that wise parents should teach their children early just who is boss in the family.  
13. As I was growing up, my mother seldom gave me expectations and guidelines for my behavior.  
14. Most of the time as I was growing up my mother did what the children in the family wanted when making family decisions.  
15. As the children in my family were growing up, my mother consistently gave us direction and guidance in rational and objective ways.  
16. As I was growing up my mother would get very upset if I tried to disagree with her.  
17. My mother feels that most problems in society would be solved if parents would not restrict their children’s activities, decisions, and desires as they are growing up.  
18. As I was growing up my mother let me know what behavior she expected of me, and if I didn’t meet those expectations, she punished me.  
19. As I was growing up my mother allowed me to decide most things for myself without a lot of direction from her.  
20. As I was growing up my mother took the children’s opinions into consideration when making family decisions, but she would not decide for something simply because the children wanted it.  
21. My mother did not view herself as responsible for directing and guiding my behavior as I was growing up.  
22. My mother had clear standards of behavior for the children in our home as I was growing up, but she was willing to adjust those standards to the needs of each of the individual children in the family.  
23. My mother gave me direction for my behavior and activities as I was growing up and she expected me to follow her direction, but she was always willing to listen to my concerns and to discuss that direction with me.  
24. As I was growing up my mother allowed me to form my own point of view on family matters and she generally allowed me to decide for myself what I was going to do.  
25. My mother has always felt that most problems in society would be solved if we could get parents to strictly and forcibly deal with their children when they don’t do what they are supposed to as they are growing up.  
26. As I was growing up my mother often told me exactly what she wanted me to do and how she expected me to do it.  
27. As I was growing up my mother gave me clear direction for my behaviors and activities, but she was also understanding when I disagreed with her.
28. As I was growing up my mother did not direct the behaviors, activities, and desires of the children in the family.

29. As I was growing up I knew what my mother expected of me in the family and she insisted that I conform to those expectations simply out of respect for her authority.

30. As I was growing up, if my mother made a decision in the family that hurt me, she was willing to discuss that decision with me and to admit it if she had made a mistake.

Description: The PAQ is designed to measure parental authority, or disciplinary practices, from the point of view of the child (of any age). The PAQ has three subscales: permissive (P: items 1, 6, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24 and 28), authoritarian (A: items 2, 3, 7, 9, 12, 16, 18, 25, 26 and 29), and authoritative/flexible (F: items 4, 5, 8, 11, 15, 20, 22, 23, 27, and 30). Mother and father forms of the assessment are identical except for references to gender.

Scoring: The PAQ is scored easily by summing the individual items to comprise the subscale scores. Scores on each subscale range from 10 to 50.

Author: Dr. John R. Buri, Department of Psychology, University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105.