

Child Sexual Abuse Interview Protocol (CSAIP)

For Use in Forensic Videotaping Interviews

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Stage I. Rapport

Tell the child **who the interviewer is**

- Name Agency Position/Role

Identify the **purpose**

- Inform the child about videotaping purpose and the presence of accompanying adults
 Address the child's concern regarding being videotaped
 Obtain consent from the child (if required by the law)

Establish **rapport** with the child

Ask the child about a **specific non-abuse event** for event narrative practice

Also assess the **child's competency** in answering the **4WH** questions

- Who When Where What How

Optional questions:

- Home Situation Discipline Method Family Relationship

Set up the **Ground Rules** (*May be viewed as a separate stage*)

- State the importance** of telling the truth
 Assess the child's ability to differentiate **the truth and a lie**
 Encourage the child to define
 If can't define: Check competency with one example of the truth
 and one example of a lie
 Include what happens when people tell truth or lie
 Specify **the ground rules**
 Ensure that the child promises to tell the truth
 Accept "I don't know" or "I don't understand" as answers
 Say "Correct me if I get anything wrong"
 Clarify the reasons that slang or unusual terms may need to be further explained by the child.

Stage II. Free Narrative Account

What Happened

- Encourage the child to tell **what** happened in **his or her own words**

Use Dolls Appropriately (or drawings which are used more frequently now)

- Use dolls (if needed) only after the child has disclosed content of sexual abuse

Use Open-ended Questions

- Come back** to this "Free Narrative" after child has disclosed sexual abuse

Stage III. Questioning

If the child is Reticent:

A. Before Disclosure

- What happened lately with the child?
- Show patience to listen
 - Encourage the child to use own words to describe what has happened
- More rapport building
 - Ask about home/school situations
- Ask the child about the purpose of this visit
- Anything that someone asked the child to tell or not to tell
- Refer to any signs of silence or emotional distress
- Anything else the child needs help with?
- In the case of no disclosure,
 1. Follow-up on the child's statements with the 4WH questions
 2. Provide information about body protection and further assistance

B. After Disclosure

- Encourage the child to tell **what** happened in his or her **own words**
- Focus on **one recall** at a time (e.g., start with the **most recent** abuse or the **most remembered**)

If the child has disclosed, use follow-up questions for validation:

When

- Date** (year, season, holiday)
- Time** (if not exact time, day/night)

Where

- Abuse location** (e.g. bedroom, games room)
- Address** of the location
- Brief description** of the location (if address not given)
- Where were other family members** during the abuse?

Who

- Full name** of the alleged perpetrator
- Relationship** of the alleged perpetrator to the child
- Brief description** of the alleged perpetrator (if relationship unknown)
- Who else** was there when the abuse occurred?
- Who else knew** about the abuse?

What (also determine coercion and secrecy)

- Focus on events **before, during, and after the abuse**
- What did the alleged **perpetrator do**?
- What did the **child do**?
- What was the **perpetrator wearing**?
- What was the **child wearing**?
- Body **position** of alleged perpetrator and child
- What did the **child see, hear, say, feel or sense**?
- What did the alleged **perpetrator say**?
- What else** happened in this incident?

How (Follow-up on the child's description of abuse) (Be aware that this may be difficult for young children)

- Determine **methods** of abuse
- Frequency** of the specific act (e.g. How many times did he do this to you?)
- Duration/length** of this incident (e.g. How much time did he spend on doing it?)
- Clarify the child's terminology** for private body parts _____
- Clarify the child's terminology** for sexual acts _____
- Use the child's terminology** to ask further questions about the abuse
- How did the child **feel** before/during/after the abuse?
- How does the child usually **get along** with the alleged perpetrator?
(Check their relationship before and after the abuse)

Determine the **progression** of abuse

- What else** happened?
- How often** similar incidents occurred?
- Ask about the **first incident** in multiple abuse cases
- Ask about the **most recent incident** in multiple abuse cases (if not disclosed yet)
- Ask about **other incidents between the first and the most recent** incident
- Ask about other sexual acts
- Ask about being exposed to or forced to participate in pornography

Additional information (May be required by the law)

- "Do you know if the perpetrator has done this to anyone else?"
- "Has anyone else done something like this to you?"

Determine the **motive to report**

- Who was the first person** the child told about the abuse?
 - This person's **reaction** or action?
- What** made the child decide to report?

Don't use **inappropriate techniques**

- Don't use "why"** questions (that may be perceived as accusing)
- Don't use leading** questions
- Don't be judgmental**
- Don't touch** the child
- Don't be tense** (be child-focused)

Stage IV. Closing the Interview

- Confirm the **name** of perpetrator and the **type(s)** of abuse
- Ask the child to **confirm** that the disclosed content is what has happened
- Confirm** that no one has forced the child to tell or not to tell what has been told
- Be honest with the child about **what will happen next**
- Give the child an opportunity to **ask questions**
- Address the **child's concerns**
- Thank** and **reassure** the child
- Formally **close** the interview by stating that the interview has ended or reporting the time