

FIGURE 1: QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVIEWING

 Instead of....	 Try...
<p>“Why did you....?” or “Why didn’t you....?” “Start at the beginning and tell me what happened.” “How long did the assault last?” and Other questions asking for a chronological account. “What were you wearing?”</p>	<p>“When (specific event happened), what were your feelings and thoughts?” or “Are you able to tell more about what happened when....?” “Where would you like to start?” “Would you tell me what you are able to remember about your experience?” or “What are you able to tell me about what was happening before/during/after the assault?”</p>
<p>“Sometimes we can get valuable evidence from the clothes you were wearing, even if you’ve put them through the laundry. We would like to collect the clothes you were wearing at the time of the assault as evidence. Can we pick up those items at a time and place that is convenient for you?” “Can you describe what you were thinking and feeling when you went with the suspect?” and “Did the suspect’s behavior change after you went with them? How did this make you feel?” “What are you able to tell me about what brought you to the location at this time/day?”</p>	<p>“What are you able to tell me about what was happening while you were in... (the room, the car, the house, etc.)?” or “What were your thoughts and/or feelings while you were in... (the room, the car, the house, etc.)?” “What are you able to recall doing or saying during the incident?” and “How did the suspect respond to your words or actions? Do you remember how that made you feel?” “What did you feel like you were physically capable of doing during the incident?”</p>
<p>“Did you say no?” “Did you fight back?” “Why didn’t you report right away?”</p>	<p>“What was going on in your mind when you realized you were in danger?” “Did anything in particular cause you to come tell us about this incident today?” or “Was there someone you trusted to tell about the incident after it occurred? When you told them, what were you thinking and feeling?” or “What were you feeling—physically and emotionally—immediately after the assault?”</p>
<p>“Did anyone see this happen?” “Have you had sex with this person before?” or “Are you dating/in a relationship with this person?”</p>	<p>“Can you tell me about any people or witnesses who might have seen you and the suspect together or who might have seen the incident?” and “Can you tell me about any people or witnesses who might have seen you after the event?” and “Can you share information with me on any friends/colleagues/ classmates that might have noticed a change in your physical appearance or behavior (withdrawn/sad/angry) after the assault?” “Has this person done anything like this to you in the past?” and “Can you tell me how this instance was different from previous consensual sexual acts?”</p>

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