



SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS: VICTIM

Physical Abuse

- What happened?
- How did you receive the injury?
- When did you receive the injury? For how long have you had the injury?
- Do you have any injuries that are not visible?
- How would you describe the suspect's temperament?
- Who was here?
- Who has access to your home?
- Are you taking any medications?
- What did the suspect say during the altercation?
- Has this ever happened before?
- What did you think was going to happen? Why?

Neglect

- How do you get to your appointments?
- How do you get to the store for groceries?
- What medications do you take? Does someone give you the medications when you need to take them? Who helps you sort out what to take and when?
- How do you get your prescriptions?
- Who handles your finances?
- Do you have any friends or family who live nearby? How often do you see them?
- What did you eat and drink today?
- Does anyone help you at home? If so, who?
- Do you pay that person to help you? How much? How often?
- Do you have an agreement with him that he will inherit any part of your estate? Is his name on the title to your house, car, or other property?
- Do you have any advanced directives?

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

A Project of Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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- Do you have a will? When was it written?

Stalking

- Do you know who has been (following you, sending messages, etc.)?
- Have you had a relationship with this person? How well do you know her/him?
- Does this individual have access to weapons?
- How have these incidents affected you? How do they make you feel?
- Are you afraid?
- Have there been any threats?
- How often has this been happening? Have the incidents increased?
- Do you have any dates written down?
- Have you told others about this?
- Has anyone else seen these incidents?
- Has the suspect contacted anyone close to you to get information about you?
- Have you changed your routine because of the incidents?
- Have you moved, changed phone numbers, bought pepper spray, etc.?
- Do you have the letters, gifts, e-mails, etc.?
- Do you have a plan for your safety?

Sexual Abuse

- What happened?
- Did you want to participate in these sexual activities?
- Do you know the person who did this to you?
- Has this happened before?
- Where are you hurt?
- Did he or she say anything before, during, or after the incident?
- Did the suspect make any threats regarding this incident?
- Were there any witnesses?
- Determine the victim's capacity and ability to consent to sexual activity.
- Have you had a medical exam/SANE exam? Would you like to go to the hospital?

- Do you want a sexual assault victim advocate?
- Is there anyone you would like us to contact for you?
- Do you have a guardian?

Financial Exploitation

- How do you decide how to spend your money? For giving gifts? To whom have you previously given items of value? On what occasions?
- Have you signed anything you did not understand? Details?
- What is your educational background? Any jobs or professional positions?
- Do you have a will? Any recent changes to it? Why? Were there changes to the people who are to receive bequests? The amount they were to receive? Any new beneficiaries? What has your relationship been to the people in the first will? What changes have there been?
- Have you always managed your finances? If not, who did? When did you begin managing your financial affairs? Do you find it difficult? Has anyone offered to help you?
- Do you live on a fixed budget? Do you have concerns about having enough money to last for your lifetime? To provide inheritances? For whom? What advanced planning have you done? Who assisted you with those plans? Are there written documents? Where are they?
- Have you changed your plans? If so, in what way? When? Why? Did someone suggest that you make those changes? Did you consult your attorney/financial advisor or a professional in making the changes? Was it the same professional who helped with the original documents? If not, is there a reason you went to someone else? Who suggested the new professional to help you? Did someone drive you to the meeting where the new documents were prepared? Who witnessed the signing? Who was present during the meetings with the professional? Who paid for the professional's services? Did anyone explain what the changes meant? What do you understand them to mean?
- Where do you bank? How long have you banked there? Have there been any changes to your bank accounts? Any names added to the account? Any new accounts opened? Where are monthly statements sent? Have you checked the statements recently? How much money is in your checking account? Savings? IRAs? Other accounts? If there have been changes, who selected the new bank? Did anyone drive you to the bank to make the changes?
- Have you executed a power of attorney (POA)? Who have you designated to be your decision maker? Did you have another POA? Who was the decision maker in the earlier POA? Why did you make the change? Who suggested it? Who drafted it?

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS: OFFENDER

Be aware that interviewing the offender may increase the danger for a victim. During the investigation and while interviewing the offender, investigators should continually assess for the level of danger.

Physical Abuse

- How do you know the victim?
- What happened?
- Do you live here?
- How did the victim receive the injuries?
- Do you have any injuries? If so, how did you receive your injuries?
- How much time do you spend here?
- What do you think the victim's explanation is going to be?
- Has this happened before?
- Do you think what happened was an accident?

Neglect

- Who is the victim's caregiver?
- Do you get paid for caring for him/her? How much?
- What are the terms of your agreement? Is it in writing?
- What do you get in return for caring for him/her? Are you expecting to get anything more when the victim dies?
- What does the victim do for him/herself? What does s/he need assistance with?
- How often do you visit the victim?
- How does the victim spend a day? What do they do? Who do they see / have contact with?
- Does the victim receive any other services?
- Does the victim take any medications? What are they? Who picks them up? Who helps the victim figure out what to take and when?
- Do you know what the victim ate today?
- Who buys his/her groceries? How does that person get the money for the groceries?
- Do you have any concerns about the victim's mental capacity? Why or why not?

- Has the victim ever refused medication? Explain.
- Has the victim ever refused to go to the doctor or hospital? Explain.
- Have you ever received instructions from the victim's medical provider about his/her care needs?

Stalking

- How do you know the victim?
- What do you know about the victim?
- Have you been contacting the victim? If so, how often?
- Have you been sending the victim presents?
- Where were you (during times of incidents)?
- Have you ever had a restraining order filed against you?
- Have you ever violated one of these orders?
- Do you have any convictions for restraining order violations?

Sexual Abuse

- Tell me in your own words what happened.
- Were there any witnesses?
- What is the victim going to tell me happened?
- What is your relationship with the victim?
- What are your caregiving responsibilities? (if providing care)
- Are you the only person that provides care to the victim?
- Do you care for anyone else?

Financial Exploitation

- What is your relationship with the victim? For how long? How did it begin?
- Does the victim need assistance with financial matters? Other parts of his or her life? Have you helped the victim with these matters? How? Has the victim discussed financial matters with you? Who completes the victim's checks?
- Are you a joint account holder on any of the victim's accounts?
- Are you employed? Does the victim pay you to assist him or her?
- What training or experience do you have in financial matters? (where relevant)

- Where does the victim bank? Does s/he have brokerage or investment accounts? Have there been any changes in these? If so, how did the changes come about?
- Regarding each transaction, describe how it occurred. What did the victim say or do about them? Are there any other persons who may be able to confirm this information?
- Do you have any legal authority to act on the victim's behalf, such as a power of attorney or guardianship?
- Have you made purchases for your own benefit with the victim's money or assets? Did the victim agree or consent? Describe.

Undue Influence

- How often does the victim see family and friends? Who?
- Has the victim sustained recent losses or changes in health?
- Does the victim watch the news? Listen to the radio? Read a newspaper?
- Does the victim regularly attend activities outside the home? Are you usually present?
- What upsets or frightens the victim?
- How do you assist the victim when s/he is upset or frightened?
- Have you encouraged the victim to make gifts or purchases, or investments? Describe. In these instances, were decisions made promptly? Did the victim talk to his or her own accountant or advisor or family member? Were you present?