

## Adult Interviews

### ▪ **Current living situation**

- household members
- household rules, including privacy in bedrooms and bathrooms, sleeping arrangements, bathing, bedtime rituals, dressing, and the degree to which family members are clothed in each other's presence
- household chores to children, significant other, or other household members
- availability of social supports

### ▪ **Education and employment history**

- highest level of education
- type of employment
- work history
- hours of work/child care arrangements

### ▪ **Parenting**

- overall functioning and ability to parent
- ability to provide for the needs of the child, including nurturance and protection
- perception of the identified child victim and others in the household

### ▪ **Discipline**

- methods and language used (e.g., positive reinforcement, lectures/yelling, time-outs, denial of privileges, slapping, spankings/beatings)
- objects used (e.g., wooden spoon, shoe/"chancleta" (flip-flop), belt) and circumstances (e.g., bent over, pants down, only on face or buttocks v. anywhere on body)
- history of physical abuse or violence within the family

### ▪ **Substance abuse**

- current drug or alcohol use by the parent, alleged perpetrator, and any other household member
- history of substance abuse
- impact on parenting and overall functioning

## Adult Interviews (Cont'd)

### ▪ **Partner relationship**

- relationship/marital history
- history of separation
- history of marital problems, including domestic violence
- parent's attitude toward partner

### ▪ **Family history**

- history of drug or alcohol use or dependence within the family
- history of mental illness (including mental health treatment for any family member)
- history of past placements from family of origin
- history of past placements for any of the caregivers' children

### ▪ **Past history of abuse**

- possible patterns regarding choices of exploitive, abusive, and dominant or dependent partners
- difficulties in perceiving risk to her children or propensity to overreact and perceive risk when not present
- history of abuse or neglect within the family

### ▪ **Sexual history**

- possible pattern of being sexually exploited, promiscuous, or dysfunctional
- reports of sexual behavior by the alleged perpetrator that might assist in understanding dynamics of sexual abuse

### ▪ **Current allegations**

- Are any of the household members afraid of the alleged maltreater?
- Does the parent or caregiver believe the child? Why or why not?
- Did the parent or caregiver participate in the abuse or neglect in any way?
- Did the adult have prior knowledge of the abuse or neglect?
- Has the non-maltreating parent talked to the child and/or alleged perpetrator regarding the allegations and, if so, what was said?
- Is the he/she aware of past allegations of abuse or neglect by the alleged maltreater?

## Adult Interviews (Cont'd)

- Has the child displayed possible indicators of neglect or abuse, such as the following: avoiding the alleged maltreater; receiving special treatment; complaining about the alleged maltreater's behavior; acting out; running away from home; inappropriate play with other children ?
  - Were there any physical or behavioral indicators of neglect or abuse?
  - Is the adult able to corroborate or verify specific information from the child's allegations; for example, "Did (alleged maltreater) take (child) camping last weekend?"
  - Has the alleged perpetrator had access to the child, including time alone with the child, during the time frame of when the incident occurred?
  - Is the parent/caretaker able to see child's needs as more important than the alleged maltreater's?
  - Will the parent/caretaker have the ability to be independent of and to support the family if the alleged maltreater leaves the home?
  - Does the alleged maltreater currently have access to the child?
  - Has the parent seen any evidence of "role reversal" or parentification of the child?
  - Are there any other children the alleged maltreater might have access to who could potentially be at risk?
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- **Criminal history**
    - criminal history of any family members
    - presence or use of weapons in or around the home

