Non-Offending Parent Interview Issues: Questioning and Clarification Stage

- **Past history of sexual 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 sexual abuse 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 perpetrator?
  - Does the NOP believe that the child has been sexually abused? Why or why not?
  - Did the NOP participate in the sexual abuse in any way?
  - Did the NOP have prior knowledge of the sexual abuse?
  - Has the NOP talked to the child and/or alleged perpetrator regarding the sexual abuse allegations and, if so, what was said?
  - Is the NOP aware of past allegations of sexual abuse by the alleged perpetrator?
  - Has the child victim previously displayed possible indicators of sexual abuse, such as the following: avoiding the alleged perpetrator; receiving special treatment from the alleged perpetrator; complaining about the alleged perpetrator's behavior; sexually acting out; running away from home; inappropriate sexual play with other children ?
  - Were there any physical indicators of sexual abuse, such as bleeding or bladder infections, or did the child have frequent nightmares/other behavioral indicators of sexual abuse?
  - Is the NOP able to corroborate or verify specific information from the child's allegations, for example, "Did (alleged perpetrator) take (child victim) camping last weekend?"; "Did (alleged perpetrator) play

games with (child victim)?"; "Did (alleged perpetrator) buy (child victim) a new toy every month for the last 6 months?"; or "Does (alleged perpetrator) have a video camera?"

- Has the alleged perpetrator had access to the child victim, including time alone with the child, during the timeframe of the alleged sexual abuse?
- Is the parent/caretaker able to see child's needs as more important than the alleged perpetrator's?
- Will the parent/caretaker have the ability to be independent of the alleged offender and to support the family if the alleged perpetrator leaves the home?
- Does the alleged perpetrator currently have access to the child
- Has the parent seen any evidence of "role reversal"? (Child welfare professional may need to educate parent regarding what this phrase means.)
- Are there any other children the alleged perpetrator might have access to who could potentially be at risk for victimization?

Criminal history

- Criminal history of alleged perpetrator and any family members
- Relationship of other potential victims, degree of independence of alleged offender
- Presence or use of weapons in or around the home