

# COMMUNICATION

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Provider Boot Camp – Considerations when Developing Policies to Support  
Individuals with ID/A Regarding Sexual Health, Personal Relationships, and  
Informed Choices

May 8, 2019

# Interview Considerations

- Environment
- Processing Time
- Memory Difficulties
- Acquiescence
- Communication Preferences

# Interview Techniques and Considerations

- Myth – “I can’t get good information from a person with mental retardation”
- Why? Difficulty communicating what happened
- Remembering the order of events that led to the crime
- Difficulty naming people, places, and times
- Providing consistent testimony
- Truth – All witnesses have difficulty with some of the above  Do not dismiss a victim because they have difficulty

• *Scott Modell, PhD (2006)*

# Interview Techniques and Considerations

Language

Sixth grade level

Match questions/answers with individuals level (ex. 2 or 3 word sentences)

Avoid double negatives

Use words victim uses for body parts

Abstract Concepts

Avoid “Why” , “How” and “If” questions

## Case Study # 2

Carrie is 16, has difficulty with her speech, and told her teacher that she was touched by Joel.

The police investigate, and the case is going to trial.

The district attorney's office is confident that there is sufficient evidence for a conviction, but is just waiting for the DNA result to confirm the offender's identification.

## Case Study # 2 cont.

There was an unsuspected surprise when the DNA results came back – it wasn't Joe.

What happened?

Did the victim make a mistake?

Was there a problem with the DNA sample?

What do you think?

# STEREOTYPE or REALITY?

## Which towel displays a female silhouette?



# Concept Evolution

## Moving Away from Victim Blaming

### **No – Go - Tell**

What if the person needs help to “GO?”

### **Just Say No**

What if a person says, NO...and they are still victimized?

### **Good touch – Bad Touch**

Is it the touch? Or toucher?



# The White Bear Effective



# Helpful Suggestions

Be aware of when and how you use the word “victim.”

Meet in a quiet place, free of distractions.

Be sensitive to what you are wearing.

Offer and have available in the room small bottles of water and goldfish crackers, mini pretzels, etc.



**THANK YOU**