



## CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol™

### Build Rapport

**Purpose** To establish a foundation for the interview process by:

- Orienting the individual
- Learning about the individual
- Facilitating the individual's best possible functioning

**Approaches**

- Utilize orienting messages
- Engage in narrative practice
- Conduct a general assessment of functioning
- Adjust the interview based on the individual's presentation

### Seek Information

**Purpose** To provide an opportunity for the individual to report their experience

**Approaches**

- Choose a forensically sound strategy for approaching the topic of inquiry, fully utilizing indirect prompts
- Incorporate interview tools in an intentional manner, when appropriate.

### Explore Statements

**Purpose** To allow the individual to share details of their experience

**Approaches**

- Listen to the individual
  - Utilize Process of Inquiry
    - Encourage narrative
    - Ask follow-up and clarifying questions as needed
  - Consider the individual's developmental abilities
  - Maintain an open mind
- Utilize interview tools as beneficial, to maximize the individual's ability to communicate their experience
- Return to *Seek Information* as appropriate
  - Explore alternative explanations and/or additional forms of maltreatment

### End Respectfully

**Purpose** To provide a respectful closure to and transition from the interview by attending to the individual's:

- Presentation
- Communicated experience
- Observed needs

**Approaches**

- Explore resources, reinforcing information the individual shared, as appropriate
- Provide a developmentally sensitive and individual-centered transition