University of Southern California Law

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Supplemental Investigative Interview Questions

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@ 2011 (version 1)

Abuse Details

How do you know X? (How did you know it was his finger / it went inside / X?)

What did you hear when X?

Back-Up: What sounds did you hear when X?

What did you see when X?

Where were your hands / feet / head / back when [suspect] X?

Where were [suspect's] hands / stomach / legs when [suspect] X?

What was the last thing the [suspect] did?

Child Reactions

How did you feel when X?

Follow-up: Tell me more about that.

If child does not mention emotion: Tell me about your feelings when he X.

What you were thinking when X?

How did your [body part child mentioned] feel when X?

What did [suspect] do after [incident]?

What did [you] do after [incident]?

How did you feel when you went to the bathroom after X?

Other Abuse Types

Tell me the worst thing [suspect] did to you.

Tell me something different that [suspect] did to you.

Tell me about a secret you have with [suspect].

Supplemental Investigative Interview Questions (cont'd.)

Disclosure

How did people find out about this?

Who did you first tell about this?

Back-Up: I heard that you told X. Tell me everything that happened when you told X.

For each disclosure ask:

What did you say to [disclosure recipient]?

What did [disclosure recipient] say?

What did [disclosure recipient] do after you told?

What were you thinking when you told [disclosure recipient]?

What did you think after you told [disclosure recipient]?

Disclosure motivations:

What made you not tell right away?

What made you want to tell?

Potential Pressures

How do you feel about everything that has happened?

What has changed since this happened?

What has the [suspect] said to you about X...

...[caregiver]

...what happened

...talking to people / police / me

What has your [caregiver] said to you about X...

...[suspect]

...what happened

...talking to people / police / me

Break

I am going to give you a break, and I am going to give me a break. I am going to look over my notes and see if I have some more questions for you. While I am gone, I want you to think about something else that you want to tell me.

What did you think about when I was gone?

Closing Question

What else do you want to tell me today?

