

# VICTIM-CENTERED INVESTIGATIONS

## VICTIM-CENTERED INVESTIGATIONS:

- Adapt to meet the victims' needs
- Respect the victims' dignity
- Empower victims to share their stories

## OFFICERS SHOULD

- Have patience with victims
- Hold interviews in a neutral location
- Refer victims to the services they need
- Ensure the victims' rights are protected
- Be sensitive to victims' cultural differences
- Use a trauma-informed approach (see tips to the right) when interacting with victims

## OFFICERS SHOULD NOT

- Use loud, insistent, heavy-handed responses
- Ask questions just to satisfy curiosity
- Expect victims to immediately open up
- Use law enforcement jargon
- Ask victim-blaming questions
  - "Why didn't you run away?"
  - "Why did you go with him?"
  - "Why didn't you scream/call for help?"



## TRAUMA INFORMED TIPS

LISTEN ATTENTIVELY WITH A NON-JUDGMENTAL DEMEANOR

EXPLAIN YOUR ROLE AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY INTERVIEW & THE NEXT STEPS AT THE END

PAY ATTENTION TO BODY LANGUAGE; ALLOW PHYSICAL SPACE

GIVE VICTIMS SOME CONTROL OVER SITUATION (BREAKS, SEATING, ETC.)

USE A CONVERSATIONAL APPROACH