

TRAUMA ASSESSMENT: ASKING ABOUT CLIENT VULNERABILITIES

IDENTITY	<p>What name do you prefer?</p> <p>Is there anything you want me to know about your gender or identity?</p>
HOME/SLEEP	<p>Where do you live? How long have you lived there? Where do you sleep?</p> <p>Do you feel safe and clean where you sleep/live?</p>
WELLNESS	<p>Are you eating every day?</p> <p>Are you able to get medical care/medicines you need?</p>
COMMUNICATION	<p>What is the best way to communicate with you? (phone, mail, text, email)</p> <p>Is it ok to leave you voice messages?</p> <p>What are your safe phone numbers/addresses?</p>
EDUCATION	<p>Are you able to read? In what language(s)?</p>
FINANCIAL STATUS	<p>How do you make money? Is it difficult work? How are you treated?</p> <p>Do you have enough money to live comfortably – pay rent, get good, pay bills and phone, basic living?</p> <p>Do you run out of money at the end of the month?</p> <p>Do you receive any government assistance? (<i>foodstamps, SNAP, disability</i>)</p> <p>Are there other ways you make extra money?</p> <p>Do you depend on anyone else for income?</p>
VIOLENCE	<p><i>*We have special project/work with agencies to help clients who have experienced violence - including domestic violence, family violence, dating violence, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and sexual assault or rape*</i></p> <p>Have you experienced any kind of violence?</p> <p>Have you been physically or emotionally hurt?</p> <p>Has anyone hurt you or threatened to hurt you?</p> <p><i>(Has anyone – beaten, punched, pushed, stabbed, forced you to have sex, tried to touch you, made you feel uncomfortable?)</i></p>
DISCRIMINATION	<p>Have you experienced discrimination or mistreatment based on your accent, skin color, country of origin, gender, sexual orientation or for any reason?</p> <p>Have you been treated badly by someone at work or at school? How were you discriminated against or treated? Why do you think you might have been treated differently?</p>
RISK ENVIRONMENTS	<p>Are you around chemicals or toxins you think are dangerous?</p> <p>What kinds? How do they harm you?</p>
IMMIGRATION STATUS	<p><i>*We have helpful information about clients who might be worried about immigration (ICE or Border Patrol)*</i></p> <p>Are you afraid because of your immigration status?</p>
SUPPORT SYSTEM	<p>Who in your family or of your friends helps you?</p>

Presumed “Worthiness”

Advocates could ask themselves -

- if the client is likely to be considered by others as someone not to be trusted because of aspects of their appearance, ethnicity, accent, addiction status, personality, or some other observable trait
- if other people are likely to assume that the client deserves their plight in life or their legal trouble due to an observable trait

Trauma Informed Advocacy – OCTOBER 2018

