EMERGENCY TELE-FORENSIC INTERVIEW SCREENING PROTOCOL

NOTE: MDT Members should screen all members of household prior to in-person interactions. Should child or family member be diagnosed with or showing symptoms of COVID-19 an alternative plan MUST be made.

START

Physical / Sexual Abuse involving a 6-17-year-old child

Is there an emergent characteristic (immediate concern for the safety, wellbeing, or health) which requires a TFI?

Physical / Sexual Abuse involving a child under 6 years-old

Be guided by your supervisors on options for alternative interviewing techniques.

OR

OR

NO

NO

YES

YES

If there is a safe, youth-friendly environment wherein the youth can be separate from other persons? (see location considerations)

Be guided by your supervisors on options for alternative interviewing techniques.

Do you have access to a DC Government phone, tablet, or laptop/Safe Shores equipment?

Can the youth be transported to the CAC facility for a TFI?

Using the following:
- Transport by Caregiver
- Transport by MDT Member
- Transport by Rideshare

Coordinate with your agency POC to schedule a TFI and consultation with Safe Shores forensic staff regarding execution of the interview.

VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

- Safety and Comfort of Youth
- Developmental Level (Communication)
- Cognitive / Intellectual Delays
- Psychological & emotional wellbeing
- Physical Health
- Caregiver Support

LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS

TFIs in the home environment are not recommended. Should that option be a necessity, please see the following considerations:

- Youth should be willing and comfortable to participate in the interview process.
- Consider variables regarding distractibility and ensure interruptions are mitigated.
- Consider the management of the child’s needs and behaviors during the interview.
- Cases involving intra-familial offences wherein the perpetrator lives or stays at the residence of the complainant are not permitted to be conducted in that residence.
- Chosen space is not permitted to be where the offense occurred.
- Does the location have adequate insulation to dampen the sound of the interview?
- Space should have privacy to eliminate influence, intimidation, and contamination.
- Interviews should not take place in public settings such as in vehicles or on front porches.
- Discuss the room setup, equipment placement & other considerations with your team.

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