



## PROSECUTOR CHECKLIST, WORKING WITH OLDER VICTIMS

Victim \_\_\_\_\_  
Prosecutor \_\_\_\_\_

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:** Please check each item that you addressed. Victims should be provided with a separate survey that they can complete confidentially.

### INTERVIEWING STRATEGIES

<b>REMOVE DISTRACTIONS</b>	Select a quiet place for the interview and remove distractions. Turn off cell phones and put away electronic devices. Meet with the older person in his or her own home whenever possible.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TALK TO THE VICTIM ONE-ON-ONE</b>	Talk to the victim one-on-one, separating him or her from family members and suspects, especially if it is unclear which family members will be witnesses and/or defendants. Consider the benefit of having an advocate present.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ADDRESS NEEDS AND ISSUES OF CONCERN FIRST</b>	Before inquiring about the information you need, ask the victim about concerns he or she might have, including physical or medical needs. Acknowledge those concerns and address them as soon as practical. If you are unable to address those concerns, connect the elder with another professional who can provide prompt assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DEVELOP RAPPORT</b>	After addressing the victim's immediate concerns, develop rapport by asking the victim questions about his/her life, career and/or family before exploring case facts. Do not infantilize or patronize older persons (e.g., talking down, baby talk, raising your voice, addressing by first name, physical contact).	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BE PATIENT</b>	Older victims may need more time to process information. Ask questions one at a time and allow the older person sufficient time to respond.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

### PREPARING FOR COURT

<b>ACCOMMODATE NEEDS</b>	Inquire in advance about the victim's need for accommodations and incorporate those accommodations into all parts of the criminal justice process, including courtroom appearances and pretrial meetings. Identify and consider needs pertaining to mobility, language and communication (assistive devices, interpreters and translators), medication, nutrition, hydration, oxygen and other medical treatment.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CONSIDER TRANSPORTATION NEEDS</b>	Anticipate the older victim's transportation needs to attend meetings and hearings. Work with Victim/Witness staff or other professionals (e.g., APS, law enforcement, etc.) to ensure appropriate transportation is provided when necessary. Ensure that someone other than the suspect or suspect allies will provide transportation for the older victim.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOUR THE COURTROOM</b>	Work with Victim/Witness and court staff to provide the victim with a tour of the courtroom in advance. Familiarize the victim with seating arrangements and the general process. Work with court staff to ensure courtroom accommodations (such as hearing amplification devices) are available to the victim.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CONSIDER WAITING AREA</b>	Make sure there is a safe and comfortable waiting area (preferably away from the assigned courtroom) and a place for the victim advocate to sit during testimony.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BE FLEXIBLE IN SCHEDULING</b>	Schedule appearances and testimony of the victim at the best time for him or her. Be flexible to accommodate any special needs of the victim. Avoid delays once the victim is present.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

