

Victim Questionnaire

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This is an outline of *some areas* to address with victims of sex crimes but in no way is an exhaustive list! Victims often reveal minimal details at first. Some offense behaviors are more traumatizing, embarrassing and humiliating than others. It is important to identify as many specific behaviors as possible that occurred during the sexual assault or rape.

I provide the checklist at the end of this questionnaire to use during interviews.

DOCUMENTATION OF THE CRIME

		NO	YES
1.	Did the offender take pictures of you and if so, about how many?		
2.	Did the offender take video of you?		
3.	Did the offender take any of your belongings?		

It is important to ask about both pictures and video. Have the victim describe the camera and video camera so that you can find them. Some offenders use their cell for both, others may use separate devices.

Also- ask the offender's partner if they take pictures/videos of them as well. Establish a pattern.

VICTIM PARTICIPATION

		NO	YES
4.	Were you directed to engage in a role play, repeat phrases, or re-enact something from porn?		
5.	Were you directed to show your genitals, displaying genitals?		
6.	Were you directed to masturbate yourself?		
7.	Were you directed to masturbate the offender?		

The offender may have the victim role play or masturbate to cover for erectile dysfunction or to humiliate, or both.

Ask the offender's partner if they do the same at home- establish a pattern.

EVIDENCE OF ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION/USE OF SEX ENHANCING MEDS (*VIAGRA, CIALIS*)

		NO	YES
1.	Did the offender have difficulty obtaining or maintaining an erection?		
2.	Did the offender fail to lose their erection after orgasm or after repeated sex acts?		

Find the offender's stash of Viagra or Cialis.

Also- ask the offender's partner if they have ED.

SPECIFIC SEX ACTS

		NO	YES
1.	Did the offender touch your anal area?		
2.	Did the offender insert any object or fingers into your anus?		
3.	Did the offender insert their penis into your anus? If so, did they wear a condom?		
4.	Did the offender touch your vaginal area?		
5.	Did the offender insert any object or fingers into your vagina?		
6.	Did the offender insert their penis into your vagina? If so, did they wear a condom?		
7.	How many times throughout the assault did they insert their penis into your anus or vagina?		

The more we know about what happened, the more options we have during an interview/interrogation. If the offender only admits to digital or object penetration- that is still forcible rape.

If objects were used, ask the offender's partner how often objects are used on them. Focus on how the offender may have used the same object on the victim/s as they do with their partner and you are concerned for their well-being.

RESTRAINTS

		NO	YES
1.	Did the offender tie you up with anything? If so, with what?		

Ask the offender's partner if they do the same at home- establish a pattern.

CRIMINAL SOPHISTICATION

		NO	YES
1.	Did the offender wash or clean you in any way?		
2.	Did the offender have you bath/shower?		
3.	Did the offender use any cleaners on you (e.g., douche, enemas)?		
4.	Did the offender take things used to clean you with them (e.g., towels, douche containers, wash clothes)?		

Search nearby garbage sites as well as the offender's home for souvenirs and whatever was used to cleanse the victim.

OFFENDER BEHAVIOR & DEMANDS

		NO	YES
1.	How did the offender refer to you? What names did they call you?		
2.	Did the offender call you any derogatory names? If so, what?		

OFFENDER CONTROL

		NO	YES
1.	How did the offender maintain control over you?		
2.	Did the offender physically assault you? If so, how and where did they hit you?		
3.	If you resisted, how did the offender react?		
4.	If the offender threatened harm, did they follow through with threat? If so, describe.		

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATIONS

1.	Ask victim when last time they were pressured or forced into sex by the offender.	
2.	Ask victim when last time they engaged in sex with the offender to avoid physical assault.	
3.	Ask children when last time they were physically punished or assaulted by the offender.	
4.	Ask children when last time they were touched in private places by the offender.	

Domestic batterers often sexually assault and rape their victims. However, victims focus on how they were physically assaulted. Ask about pressured or forced sex contact.

Children are often physically and sexually abused in homes with domestic abuse. Ask, identify if the children have been victimized physically and/or sexually.

Risk Factors & Investigative Strategies for Sexual and Violent Predators

(taken from Child Porn Offenders, Solicitation Offenders and Child Sexual Abusers: What the Literature Has to Say, by Scott A Johnson, 2019)

1. Never underestimate the significance of nuisance sex offenses as these offenses often are part of an offenders larger deviant scheme (e.g., Shelton, Eakin, Hoffer, Muirhead, & Owens, 2016).
2. Pay attention to any similarities between the nuisance offenses and actual sexual offense behavior (e.g., Lanning, 2010).
3. Always obtain a police report and/or criminal complaint for any police contact mentioned in the criminal history check (Johnson, 2021, author- anecdotal). Every police contact offers some information that helps illustrate the offender's criminal sophistication and offense behavior history. Most have years of engaging in sexual and physically violent crimes but do not get caught. Even when caught, lack of evidence may result in no further investigation or no criminal charges being brought against them. The police reports and criminal history of every police contact highlight the offender's violent history and escalation or offense behavior. Imagine during an interview, questioning the suspect about their prior behavior and they are not prepared or expecting that would have been brought-up.
4. Always send a teletype or email to all law enforcement agencies where the offender resided. I worded my requests similar to: *"I am investigating this individual for a violent crime or sex crime and need to know of any contact your agency has had with him/her, regardless of whether an arrest was made or charges filed."* This was fruitful in at least half of my cases- the offenders' pattern revealed. This is especially helpful as many of the offenders had police contacts that did not result in arrest, but important to establish a pattern.
5. Many of the offenders may not have any criminal history or no criminal sexual offense history. This does not make the offender any less dangerous, it simply means they likely have never been arrested or detected in the past.
6. Of those offenders who had no prior sex offense convictions but admitted having undetected contact victims, they had the most victims (Owens et al., 2016).
7. Many of the offenders may not have any criminal history or no criminal sexual offense history. This does not make the offender any less dangerous, it simply means they likely have never been arrested or detected in the past.
8. Many of the child porn offenders with the most contact offenses went undetected at least in part to their not having a criminal history and skills at grooming (Shelton et al., 2016).
9. For child porn cases, always investigate for contact offenses. Look into any contact they may have with children/minors, any position of power/authority they may have had with minors (Shelton et al., 2016). This should also include investigating the neighborhood they live in (e.g., playgrounds, churches, pools, schools) as the offender may hang around those areas watching children or engaging the children in activities. Child porn offenders with no prior sex offense convictions admitted having the most undetected victims, and their ability to remain undetected for so long requires special attention to investigate the offender's life (e.g., Owens et al, 2016).
10. Investigate all areas where the offender may have had contact with children or other victims. This may include daycares, churches, schools, parks, malls, etc.

11. Child porn only offenders are more likely to confess to police and admit the child porn possession. They do this to lessen the chance that law enforcement would further investigate and detect that they have contact victims (McManus et al., 2015). When an offender makes a confession to what you already know, they want you to stop investigating to avoid you detecting contact victims.
12. A high percentage of children sexually abused likely never report the sexual contact or may not do so until they are much older, reducing the likelihood of prosecution due to the time lapse (e.g., Smith, et al., 2000).
13. Always ask victims if the offender took pictures of them. If so, find the pictures and what was used to take the pictures or videos (cell phone, camera). The sexual behavior of the child is almost always recorded by the offender for sexual gratification and may also be used to blackmail and threaten the child into continued submission and compliance and secrecy (Briggs et al., 2011; Grosskopf, 2010; Krone, 2005; Mitchell et al., 2007b; O'Connell, 2003). In addition, the offender may use threats, intimidation, blackmail, bribes, gifts, seduction, and competition to gain victim compliance and secrecy (Campbell, 2009; Sullivan & Quayle, 2012).
14. Again, be wary of an offender's willingness to admit to some aspect of a crime, such as possession of child sexually explicit material or that they may have pressured the victim for sex. Offenders tend to admit to facts that they assume we already know, but do not want us to continue to investigate to find additional victims or contact victims.
15. Sex offenders tend to have a minimum of 8 victims (Smith et al., 2000). Just like the speeder who drives fast nearly every day but only is caught once a year, or the DWI offender who may not be arrested for several years despite driving drunk weekly.
16. Always find and examine the offender's porn and erotica collection. The themes of the collection often match the offender's offense behavior. In addition, many offenders hide their homemade porn pictures and videos among the commercial porn, hoping that you will not find it.
17. Review any commercial bought porn video. Offenders may record an offense over the tape to conceal it. Yet the tape appears to be a general porn tape/video.

Summary

Victims rarely provide all of the details about their victimization. However, victims will most likely answer questions when asked. I highlighted several important areas to question the victim. These areas are often overlooked and therefore opportunities missed. If you can tie the offender's behavior during the offense to the offender's personal life with their partner, you have established ***practice and premeditation***.

Remember that the more we are aware of what occurred, the more detailed we can be in the interview and interrogation. We do not harm the victim by asking questions, in fact we are helping their recovery and healing by making the memory real (talking about it). We also do not know what the offender is willing to admit. Perhaps the offender admits to slapping but not punching the victim. That is still assault, regardless how much the offender minimizes and projects blame onto the victim. Perhaps the offender admits to digital or object penetration, denying penile penetration. However, admitting to any penetration is still forcible rape, forced penetration.

QUESTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF SEX CRIMES

This is not a complete questionnaire but rather highlights areas often missed.

DOCUMENTATION OF THE CRIME

		NO	YES
1.	Did the offender take pictures of you and if so, about how many? Describe device.		
2.	Did the offender take video of you? If so, describe device.		
3.	Did the offender take any of your belongings?		

SPECIFIC SEX ACTS

		NO	YES
1.	Did the offender touch your anal area?		
2.	Did the offender insert any object or fingers into your anus? If so, what object?		
3.	Did the offender insert their penis into your anus? If so, did they wear a condom?		
4.	Did the offender touch your vaginal area?		
5.	Did the offender insert any object or fingers into your vagina?		
6.	Did the offender insert their penis into your vagina? If so, did they wear a condom?		
7.	How many times throughout the assault did they insert their penis into your anus or vagina?		

EVIDENCE OF ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION/USE OF SEX ENHANCING MEDS (*VIAGRA, CIALIS*)

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RESTRAINTS

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CRIMINAL SOPHISTICATION

		NO	YES
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3.	Did the offender use any cleaners on you (e.g., douche, enemas)		
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OFFENDER BEHAVIOR & DEMANDS

		NO	YES
1.	How did the offender refer to you? What names did they call you?		
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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATIONS

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4.	Ask children when last time they were touched in private places by the offender.	

Again, the above is not meant to be a thorough outline for a sex crime victim but rather addresses common areas frequently missed by investigators. Also, victims may not freely disclose contact in the above areas unless questioned.

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