

The **CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol™** provides a scaffold for forensically sound interviews that best meet the needs of children and adolescents. Stages of the CornerHouse Protocol include:

BUILD RAPPORT

PURPOSE

To establish a foundation for the interview process by

- Orienting the individual
- Learning about the individual
- Facilitating the individual's best possible functioning

APPROACH

- Utilize orienting messages
- Engage in narrative practice
- Conduct a general assessment of functioning
- Adjust the interview based on the individual's presentation

SEEK INFORMATION

PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for the individual to report his or her experience

APPROACH

- Choose a forensically sound strategy for approaching the topic of inquiry, fully utilizing indirect prompts
- Incorporate interview tools in an intentional manner, when appropriate.

EXPLORE STATEMENTS

PURPOSE

To allow the individual to share details of his or her experience

APPROACH

- Listen to the individual
 - Utilize Invitation and Inquiry
 - Encourage narrative
 - Ask follow-up and clarifying questions as needed
 - Consider the individual's developmental abilities
 - Maintain an open mind
- Utilize interview tools as beneficial, to maximize the individual's ability to communicate his or her experience
- Return to Seek Information as appropriate
 - Explore alternative explanations and/or additional forms of maltreatment

END RESPECTFULLY

PURPOSE

To provide a respectful closure to and transition from the interview by attending to the individual's

- Presentation
- Communicated experience
- Observed needs

APPROACH

- Explore resources, reinforcing information the individual shared, as appropriate
- Provide a developmentally sensitive and individual-centered transition