Victim Centred Investigation and Prosecution

Traumatic Event
First Responder
Immediate V Care (medical, emotional)
Follow up Investigation
Protective order

Arraignment
Case Negotiation
Preliminary Hearing
Motions
Trial
Sentencing
Victim Impact Stmt
From the Conference Room to the Courtroom

Sexual Assault - stranger/acquaintance
Stalking
Domestic Violence
Child Molestation
Cyber Exploitation
Human Trafficking
Elder Abuse

Dueling Narratives

Pretty Faces are Prejudged
The Halo Effect

#FelonCrushFriday

Perpwalk to Catwalk
Reading Victims

Maximize first impressions
Solicit multiple exposures
Time lapse photography
Wide angle lens
Be wary of underexposure

Trading in Rose Colored Glasses for Reading Glasses

FLAG Areas

Focus: What captures their attention?
Lifestyle: How do they spend their time? What are their hobbies and interests?
Associations: What sort of company do they keep? To what organizations do they belong?
Goals: Priorities, Ambitions
Focus: Fixation Reveals Motivation

“Vexations”
Obsessive repetition
Abusive relational patterns
Cycle of violence

Lifestyle: Personality Revealed

Google Browser History
Facebook “Likes”
Cell Phone Photos
Online Identity
Identity Claims and Behavioral Residue
Red Flags After 5

The Modern Confessional
Online Show and Tell

Associations: Friends, Fans, and Followers

Pathological Identification

Best Friends!!
Goals: A Profile in Priorities

Truthfulness Bias

Detecting Dishonesty
The Transcript Test

What Does a Sexual Assault Victim Look Like?

- Dishonesty
- Defensiveness
- Nervousness?
Inaccurate Report Red Flags

- Age
- Difficulty locating
- Non-cooperation
- Uncertain, vague details
- Details provably false
- No suspect details
- Confusion

Factors Contributing to Inaccurate Information

- Alcohol / Drug Use
- Protecting the Perpetrator / Relationship
- Cultural Barriers
- Humiliating / Degrading Details
- Fear of Exposing Behavior (adultery, location of assault)
- Trauma (Compare to Off Inv Shooting)

Anticipating Recantation

- Adamant
- Reluctant
- Minimizing
- Forgetful
- Fragile
- Repentant
- Hostile
Meeting Victim Needs

The Reverse Selfie

Consider Perspective

“They didn’t give me much chance to say anything myself that I thought was important,”
(10 year old girl)
Bonding with Victims

Similarity Breeds Connection

Similarity Breeds Connection
Corroboration Focused Investigation

Interview v. Interrogation
Victims v. Suspects

“Tell Me All About It”
Consider being asked by a stranger to share your most recent sexual experience—down to the most intimate details.
Now add in details of humiliation, perversion, degradation.
Why Investigators Might Delay Interviewing

- Trauma
- Intoxication
- Transient
- Relationship to Perpetrator
- ID Issues
- Situational influences

The Devil is in the Detail

Actions Speak Louder Than Words
Why Victims Delay Reporting

Victim Perception of Justice

The Celebrity Effect
Non-Traditional Victims

Men Are Victims Too

Refusal to Identify as a Victim
Challenging Performance Expectations

Anticipating Juror Bias

Detecting Ingrained Views and Values
The Power of Stereotypes

Mental Autofill

Stereotype Threat Theory
Make it a Double (Standard)

Who Bought the Drinks?

She’s Emotional, He’s Having a Bad Day

MIND THE GAP
Less Emotion = Less Sympathetic

People expect victims to match the intensity of their emotional response to the seriousness of the event (proportionality rule)

Emotion Increases Credibility

Purported rape victim perceived as more truthful when communicating in an emotional, as opposed to emotionally neutral, manner

Sad and Exposed, Angry and Resilient?

Male V - Stronger Perceived Need for Support when expressing sadness not anger.
The Final Exam: Consistency or Counter Intuition

Maximize First Impressions: Perception when most objective

Be Wary of Underexposure: Secrets breed suspicion
Time-Lapse Photography: Observe behavior over time

Use a Wide-Angle Lens: Behavior in context, and across settings

Solicit Multiple Exposures: Observe interactions with others
Vision Enhancement:
Trust but verify, on and offline

The Ultimate Goal

Reading Victims and Judging Credibility
Best Practices in Victim Centered Investigations
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