

## **10 Trauma Informed Tips for Patrol Officers**

1. Start with an empathetic statement— “I’m sorry this happened to you”
2. Start by believing
3. Communicate to the victim that they are safe
4. Never ask WHY
5. No need to challenge the account
6. Get basic facts. Establish elements of crime, need for forensic and medical exam, crime scene, witnesses, suspects
7. Don’t make contact with the suspect until CID has an investigative strategy
8. Get sexual assault program advocate involved right away
9. Don’t write anything that can damage the investigation: “inconsistent,” “withholding information,” “lied about ...”
10. Never accept a complaint withdrawal