

## Interview Guidelines for the School Age Child

### **Children Living in Residences Where Methamphetamine is Manufactured**

#### **I. Introduction/Developing Rapport**

**“I talk with boys and girls about things that have happened in their home. Today we’re going to do that but I need to get to know you a bit better first. We tape what we talk about so I don’t have to write things down – I can listen to you. If I ask you a question you don’t understand, please let me know. If I say something that is not correct, please correct me.”**

**“So tell me your whole name...”**

**Complement the child on something about them.**

**Structure one neutral question that will require a narrative so you can assess the child’s language style (e.g., “Tell me about school...; Tell me about what you do for fun...etc.)**

#### **II. Elicit a Narrative About Alleged Activities**

##### **A. For the child who was present in the home when police/CPS arrived**

**“I understand that some police came to your home today. Tell me about that so I can know what happened...”**

**Then structure direct questions based upon the child’s narrative.**

**Specific clarification should be sought regarding:**

- 1) What was happening right before the police got there**
- 2) What was happening when the police were trying to get in**
- 3) What happened when the police came into the house**
- 4) Clarify where the child was (location in the home) at the time**
- 5) What has the child been told to do when police come to the house**

##### **B. For the child who was NOT present in the home when police/CPS arrived**

**“I talk with boys/girls all the time about things that happen in their home. Tell me about that so I can understand what happened there.**

**Then structure the questions based on the child’s response.**

**Specific questions about drugs should be asked of all children when they discuss the topic:**

- 1) Tell me what they look like (specific to each drug).
- 2) Tell me how they are used (specific to each drug).
- 3) How are they made?
- 4) Where do they get the stuff to make them?
- 5) How are they given to people?
- 6) What kinds of things do you have to do?
- 7) Who cleans up the area where the “cooking” is done? (if a child has described cooking)
- 8) What special things are used with the drugs? Tell me about that.
- 9) Who have you seen making “stuff”? Tell me about that.
- 10) Have you seen drugs on movies or books. How is that different than what you have told me about?

### **III. Elicit a Narrative About Alleged Activities**

Draw for me a picture of the rooms in your house. (Label as per child’s description). Use the picture as a frame of reference for the child to ask the following questions:

#### **A. Physical Layout**

- 1) Where do you sleep in the house?
- 2) Where does everyone else sleep?
- 3) Show me any places in the house that are kept locked. Tell me about how come these are locked.
- 4) Show me any places in the house where special things are kept locked. Tell me about that.

#### **B. Rules**

- 1) Are there any places in the house that you cannot go into? Tell me about that.
- 2) Have your (mom/dad) said anything to you about if the police come. Tell me about that.
- 3) Are there any things in the house that you can not touch? Tell me about that.
- 4) Are there special ways for you to go in or out of the house? For other people?
- 5) What happens to you if you do something you’re not supposed to do?

#### **C. Traffic**

- 1) Tell me about who visits your house.
- 2) Tell me about what kinds of things people who visit your house do.
- 3) Tell me about the time of day that most people visit your house.
- 4) Do you know the names of some of the people?

#### **D. Sensory Information**

- 1) Does anything smell funny in your house? Tell me about that.
- 2) When you are sleeping, does anything wake you up at night? Tell me about that.
- 3) Have you ever touched anything in your house that made you sick? Tell me about that.
- 4) Has anyone told you not to touch something in the house? Tell me about that.

#### **E. Weapons**

- 1) Does your family keep guns in the house? Tell me about that.

#### **F. Eating**

- 1) From the morning when you get up until you go to bed, tell me about what you eat on most days.
- 2) Who makes food for you in your house? Tell me about that.
- 3) Do you get any special food/drinks if you are especially good? If you misbehave?

#### **G. School/Friends**

- 1) Tell me about school.
- 2) Who wakes you up for school?
- 3) How do you get to school?
- 4) Do friends get to stay over? What do you and your friends do?

#### **IV. Neutral Closure**

**“I’ve been asking so many questions, is there anything you want to ask me? Tell me about what you are doing later this (afternoon, evening, etc.). Thank you for talking with me.**