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Sample Questions for the assigned APS worker from the Bruising Study LEAD panel

CAVEAT: APS workers are briefed ahead of time and asked not to mention any bruising evidence they observed, however, extra prudence is required. Although the panel members are not limited to the following questions they are cautioned to preface any questions that may result in the social worker giving information about bruising of the research subject without a warning. An example of a 'warning' is "Without mentioning anything about whether or not your client had bruises..."

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- 1. Did you confirm physical abuse of this client?
- 2. Without mentioning anything about whether or not your client had bruises, can you tell me whether there was any other physical evidence of abuse such as cuts, scrapes, skin tears, swelling, or broken bones?

If so,

- 3. Again, without mentioning anything about whether or not your client had bruises, were the *cuts, etc.* (whatever was mentioned in response to #2), consistent with the story about the abuse?
- 4. Without mentioning anything about whether or not your client had bruises, can you tell me about the client's health/gait/balance/emotional state ...?
- 5. What did the client <u>say</u> about what happened? What I'd like is a description of the alleged physical abuse incident itself (e.g., was the client pushed, hit...?)
- 6. Were there any witnesses, and if so, what did the witness(es) say happened?
- 7. Have there been any prior APS reports for this client or perpetrator to your knowledge?
- 8. Was there a police report.?

If so.

9. Without mentioning anything about whether or not your client had bruises, can you tell me whether the police collected any evidence you haven't mentioned to me that bears on this case?