Victim Interview
Strategies to overcome challenge #1: Lack of Physical Resistance
Strategies to overcome challenge #2
Delayed Reporting
Strategies to overcome challenge #3
Inconsistent or Untrue Statements
The Polygraph
Reducing the number of interviews conducted with the victim
Audio taping or videotaping the investigation
Motivational and structural barriers to an effective victim interview
The preliminary interview with the victim
Prepare for a successful victim interview

• Postponing the interview

• Review all case information

• Consider victim’s demeanor

• Anticipate a defense
Begin the victim interview

• Select an appropriate location

• Discuss who should be present
Techniques to encourage the victim to tell her story

- Use open-ended prompts
- Allow the victim control
- Avoid leading questions
- Explain the questions asked
- Maintain eye contact

- Use effective body language
- Avoid touching the victim
- Monitor the victim’s body language
- Engage in active listening
- Clarify & summarize
How to develop follow-up questions
Cognitive interviewing techniques

- Reconstruct the circumstances
- Be complete
- Recall in reverse order
- Change perspectives
Information to obtain during the interview
Concluding the interview
Blind Reporting