

HANDOUT 6.1. SAMPLE SCRIPT FOR INFORMED CONSENT/ASSENT FOR A CHILD SURVIVOR

Hello *[name of client]*.

My name is *[name of staff]* and I am here to help you. I am a caseworker and my role is to help children who have experienced difficulties. I work for *[insert organisation]* and many children benefit from receiving our services. Today we may talk about why you are here so that we can discuss how I can help you and if there is other help that you need I can connect you to these services.

It is important for you to know that I will keep what you tell me confidential, including any notes that I write down during case management. This means that I will not tell anyone what you tell me or any other information about your case, unless you ask me to, or it is information that I need to share because you are in danger. There are sometimes I may not be able to keep all the information to myself for safety reasons.

- » If I find out that you are in very serious danger, I would have to tell *[insert appropriate agency here]* about it.
- » Or, you tell me you have made plans to seriously hurt yourself, I would have to tell *[caregiver]* your parents or another trusted adult.
- » If you tell me you have made a plan to seriously hurt someone else, I would have to share that *[with my supervisor or agency]*.
- » *[Mandatory reporting requirements if they apply in your local setting]*

I would also like to share with you that you have choices as we work together.

- » You do not have to answer any question that I ask you. You can stop me or ask me to slow down at any time.
- » You can speak with me alone or with your *[insert caregiver]*. This is your decision.
- » You can ask me any questions you want to, or to let me know if you do not understand something I say.
- » You can tell me that you do not want me to help you and that is ok. I will share with you some other options for help. .
- » If you do not want me to write anything down you can tell me.

Do you have any questions? [Allow for time to answer any questions the child and caregiver may have before moving forward to obtain their informed consent/assent to proceed].

May I have your permission to continue to help you?

- » **If YES**, ask the child and caregiver to sign the informed consent/assent form.
- » **If NO**, provide information about other services in the community.