

Executive Summary

When it is safe to do so, Adult Protective Services professionals will often need to interview alleged perpetrators (A/Ps). This is an important step in the investigation and assessment process, though it often brings feelings of uncertainty to the interviewer.

This interactive and practice-based course explores the purpose of the alleged perpetrator interview, distinguishes APS goals from other social services and institutions, including law enforcement, and guides participants through an interview with an A/P. Using a case study and a Tip Sheet that describes each stage of an A/P interview, the course addresses pre-interview considerations including biases, safety, and planning. The course then focuses on conducting interviews, including sections on setting a productive tone, building rapport, exploring allegations, eliciting the A/P's explanations for their conduct, and addressing demeanor or level of cooperation. The course concludes with reminders about how to end and document the interview.

Intended Audience

This training is intended for new and experienced line staff, supervisors or agency trainers, who interview clients, alleged perpetrators, and collaterals, provide risk assessments and develop service plans, or supervise APS professionals who conduct interviews and assessments.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to:

- Identify purposes of APS interviews with alleged perpetrators (A/P)
- Recognize biases and assumptions of APS professionals and A/Ps that may affect the interview
- Identify safety concerns APS professionals may encounter during the interview process with an A/P
- Utilize a method for planning, organizing, and conducting an interview with an A/P