**Scenario Based Homework: Victim Witness Advocate Scenario**

Submitted by:

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Victim Witness Advocate Scenario

**Strategy Part 1**

Generally, the purpose of the interview with the victim, Jon Smith, is to assess his willingness and readiness to testify against Jane Smith, his wife in the upcoming criminal proceeding. Actually, my role as a victim witness advocate is to guide and support victims through the legal process to make sure they comprehend the proceedings and are emotionally prepared for the challenges they might face during the trial. I will require information about his readiness to ensure that his reservations and fears are addressed. I will provide information about the process of the trial, possible outcomes, and the significance of his testimony in obtaining justice(Mehling, 2021).

**Strategy Part 2**

The setting of the interview influences both the interviewer and the interviewee to a significant extent. In the scenario, the interview is actually based in a small meeting room within the courthouse. It carries some important implications for John Smith. The setting might evoke a range of emotions in him and may not contribute to his level of willingness and comfort to share information. The nature of the room is uncomfortable and the furniture is minimal, which ensures that a formal environment is created. The presence of a small window with symbols of authority in the room might even contribute to a sense of power dynamics and confinement. In addition, the backdrop of the US Constitution could further add to the formality of the conversation. Therefore, the interviewee might feel tense and obligated to answer honestly(Bjørvik, Thoresen, Salamonsen, Fauske, & Solbrække, 2023).

On the other hand, the setting presents some benefits and challenges for the interviewer. For instance, the limited furniture in the room might make it challenging for the interviewer to create an open and relaxed environment, which is necessary for the establishment of trust with John. In addition to it, the institutional nature of the room might also contribute to the power imbalance, which may make it challenging to communicate with the interviewee(Burkette, 2022). Still, the location of the room within the courthouse also shares a sense of seriousness and support, emphasizing the significance of the role of John as a witness in the legal proceedings. It can be said that in such an environment, the dynamics must be navigated skillfully by the advocate.

**Strategy Part 3**

Actually, in the interview with John Smith, it is critical to create an environment where the interviewee feels free to share information and express himself freely without worrying about coercion. The interviewee may not feel free to leave given the setting and the inherent power dynamics. Considering the nature of domestic violence cases, I will, however, share that John is free to leave the interview whenever he feels uncomfortable, which will emphasize the voluntary nature of his part in the interview. This assurance is rather critical given the idea that John might have cold feet. Through the reinforcement of his autonomy, John will be more likely to feel in control(Dittmann, 2014).

In the case of body language, I will adopt and use an empathetic and open posture to build a supportive atmosphere. It will involve leaning slightly forward, maintaining eye contact, and nodding affirmatively to convey understanding. It is worth noting that non-verbal cues like these can be quite helpful in building rapport and trust, and even encouraging John to share his feelings and concerns about the case. I will avoid any type of body language that might be perceived as intimidating or judgmental.

When it comes to the tone of voice, I will use an empathetic, reassuring, and calm tone. In fact, a measured and soft approach will be helpful in the reduction of apprehension and anxiety of John. There is no doubt that this tone will share my concern about his well-being and will also emphasize my supportive role in helping him go through the whole legal process. Through the use of such an understanding and respectful tone, I will create an environment where John can feel not only safe but also feels encouraged to share his concerns(Phelan, 2014).

**Strategy Part 5**

Actually, in this interview, the information required generally revolves around the willingness of John Smith to testify against his wife, his knowledge of the legal proceedings, and any reservations or concerns he might have regarding the legal proceedings. And since the nature of the case is quite sensitive, it is necessary to select the question types that promote open communication and allow John to share ideas and express himself freely. That is mainly because a combination of reflective, directive, and indirect questions will be used. Reflective questions will help encourage John to express and explore his concerns, thoughts, and feelings whereas directive questions will be helpful in guiding the conversation toward the necessary information for the legal process. Meanwhile, indirect questions be quite helpful in assessing a mindset of John without probing the sensitive issues directly(Grant, Taylor, Oxburgh, & Myklebust, 2015).

**Strategy part 5**

1. **Reflective Question:**Can you share with me your thoughts and feelings about the trial and your role in this case as a witness?
2. **Directive Question:**To better comprehend the events, could you be kind enough to offer a detailed account of what transpired and happened on the night of the incident with Jane Smith?
3. **Indirect Question:** Could you share with me your relationship with Jane in your own words before the incident? Not to mention, have there been any behaviors that concerned you?
4. **Reflective Question:**Let me ask you how you envision the influence of your testimony on the result of this case and what are your concerns and hopes related to it?
5. **Directive Question:**Please let me know what specific information or support you require from me to help you prepare for the upcoming trial. Do you want me to elaborate on what you might face as a witness?
6. **Indirect Question:** Can you tell me about any considerations or factors that might affect your decision to testify against Jane?
7. **Indirect Question:**Now, without really delving into the details, are there any external influences or pressures that might be influencing your decision about testifying in the court?

**References**

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