

Effective Interviewing As A Tool For Justice

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Interview Role Play-Client Facts

You are a 20 year old woman from Africa living in the U.S. as a permanent resident, having initially come to the U.S. as a refugee. About 2 years ago you were having family problems and an older woman in the community offered to let you live at her house. When you moved in she locked you in her home and would not let you leave. She was abusive and threatening to you and forced you to take care of her children. She forced you to sell the drug Khat and look after her children. She stole your identity cards including immigration green card and used it to collect government benefits for herself. You remained a prisoner for over 2 years. You finally connected with someone who helped you leave the woman's house and reunite with your family.

You know that the woman has lured other people into her home in the past and forced them to sell drugs or work for her without pay. She targets those who are vulnerable because of family problems or other issues and convinces them she will take care of them if they come to live with her at her home.

Since you escaped the woman has continued to harass and threaten you not to tell anyone. You know she has a gun. You are very afraid. You can't afford to move to another city.

You go to a lawyer to ask for help about getting your identity cards back, especially your green card. You want to go to school and get a job but you need proof of identity. You are very afraid to speak to a lawyer because you fear the woman might find out. But your family cannot afford to support you and you need your identity back. You are in a great dilemma.

Your primary goal is to get your identity back, particularly your green card. If possible you would like protection from the woman. You would like to clear your name with the agencies from which she collected benefits in your name.

Ultimately you'd like someone to stop her from doing this to people. But your main goal is to get your identity back in a way that does not put you at risk from the woman.

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