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### Assessing Credibility Checklist

#### Demeanor

What was the interviewee's body language (e.g., nervous, obviously uncomfortable, sweating, uneasy tone of voice, eye contact, non-verbal clues)?

How did interviewee react to the allegations (e.g., argumentative, defensive, hostile)?

Does the person inspire confidence in the listener - i.e., does he or she make an overall credible impression?

You need a baseline for comparison. How does the individual's demeanor compare to the way he/she normally acts? Be aware of cultural differences.

#### Logic/Consistency of Story

Internal logic: does story make sense unto itself?

External logic: is story consistent with others?

Did the person's chronology of events differ greatly for that of other interviewees?

Does the person's version make sense? Is it plausible or far-fetched?

Don't throw common sense out the window.

Did the person give you a plausible explanation of why an issue may have been raised?

Was the person forthcoming or did you have to "pull" information from him or her?

#### Corroborating Evidence

Did the interviewee make any admissions? For example, "the only reason why I did it was to help her."

Did the person specifically deny anything?

Are there supporting percipient witnesses? Were they credible?

Was the person's version of the facts different from anyone else's version?

Did the person's statements conflict with any written information collected?

Are there any diaries, calendars, other writings or photos that help substantiate the person's story?

#### Circumstantial Evidence

Are there things that the accused has said or done in other situations that make it more likely than not that the fact(s) in dispute actually happened?