

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

### 1. Effects on individual/family related to P.

I'd like us to talk a bit about what having P as part of your family has been like.

How has P's presence in your family affected you personally?

PROMPTS: Negative effects

Positive effects

Developmental effects (historicity): How have feelings changed over time?

Present feelings

Specific adaptive tasks: How have adaptive tasks changed?

emotional adaptation - what kind of effect emotionally?

instrumental problem-solving

financial problems

effect on work, daily life - what kind of things have come into your family life on a daily basis?

How has P's condition affected your family as a whole?

Affect on specific members: sibling, father?

### 2. Coping Responses

You've mentioned certain ways in which your life has been enriched by P's presence, and other ways in which it has been made more difficult, or at least has been challenged.

Could we talk for a moment about some of the ways you've coped with the problems you mentioned earlier.

PROMPTS: Take specific adaptive tasks and ask about coping?

How have you coped as an individual?

How has your family coped?

What has been the most difficult thing about P's condition for you?

For other family members?

How have you dealt with this?

How successful have you been?

What other problems have there been?

What do you think has helped you the most in dealing with P?

(PROMPTS: Past experiences, social support, inner resources, faith)

How does this help you?

Who do you turn to most for support?

What are other things that have helped you? In what ways?

What advice would you give to a family in a similar situation to your own, to help them deal with the stresses and challenges of having a developmentally delayed child?

### 3. Meaning/Significance?

Most people in your situation are forced to think about WHY this has happened in their lives, to their child. How do you answer this question for yourself? For other family members? For your child?

Do you feel that there is any meaning or significance to be understood in P's condition? If so, what?

Do you feel that a developmentally delayed child will have a better, worse, or essentially the same quality of life as most people? What makes you feel that?

What thoughts do you have about P's future?

(PROMPTS: specific fears, worries; limitations, placement)

### 4. Nature of communication about P

How often would you say you talk about things concerning P with your husband/wife? With the rest of the family?

Are any members of the family excluded from these discussions?

Who initiates these talks?

What is the content of these discussions?

What do you talk about?

Sharing of negative, positive emotions/feelings?

Problem-solving, information-sharing?

How open do you think this communication is?

How often do you talk about P with friends and neighbors?

(PROMPTS: same as above)

What kinds of things regarding P does your family agree on?

What kinds of things regarding P do they disagree about?

5. Causality

What do you think causes P's condition?

(PROMPTS: folk beliefs, chance/fate, genetics, birth injury, etc.)

What do people in your family, from your home town think explains P's condition?

## QUESTIONS

1. (1) Some people say that generally Latinos are not comfortable talking about personal issues outside the family.  
  
(2) Other people say that it is helpful to talk to friends or even professionals in addition to family members about personal problems.

Which idea is closer to your opinion?      1      2      **(CIRCLE ONE)**  
What makes you feel that way? **(RECORD ANSWER VERBATIM)**

2. Who would you be most likely to talk to about personal problems?  
(Interviewer: Stress most likely- if subject can't decide, circle all categories mentioned)

- (1) Family member
  - (2) Friend
  - (3) Professional
  - (4) Priest
- (CIRCLE ONE)**

3. Who do you think most Latinos would be most likely to talk to about personal problems? (Interviewer: stress most likely; if subject can't decide, circle all categories mentioned)

- (1) Family member
  - (2) Friend
  - (3) Professional
  - (4) Priest
- (CIRCLE ONE)**

4. (1) Some people believe that Latino fathers are embarrassed by a child with disabilities because they think it reflects badly on their manliness.  
  
(2) Others say Latino fathers care just as much for these children as for any other child.

Which statement is closer to your way of thinking?      1      2  
**(CIRCLE ONE)**  
Why is this? **(RECORD ANSWER VERBATIM)**

5. How do you think Latino fathers in general feel about having a child with physical and mental disabilities? **(RECORD ANSWER VERBATIM)**
6. How do you think your husband feels about having a child with Mental Retardation? **(RECORD ANSWER VERBATIM)**

7. Do you think any of these feelings are related to machismo?  
1. YES      2. NO      **(CIRCLE ONE)**

If so, in what way? **(RECORD ANSWER VERBATIM)**

8. (1) Some people say a child with disabilities is a punishment from God for sins.  
(2) Other people say a child with disabilities is simply the will of God.  
(3) Still others say there is not any reason for having such a child.

Which is closer to your way of thinking?    1      2      3  
**(CIRCLE ONE)**

Why is this? **(RECORD ANSWER VERBATIM)** (Interviewer: If subject cannot choose a response, simply record their answer.)

9. (1) Some people believe it is very important for health care professionals to take a personal interest in their patients, and be willing to share aspects of their own lives with patients and families.

(2) Other people say it doesn't matter whether health care professionals know anything about patients and family personally, as long as they know how to do their job.

Which of these ideas do you most agree with?    1      2  
**(CIRCLE ONE)**

What makes you think this way? **(RECORD ANSWER VERBATIM)**