



SCREENING FOR ABUSE



PROFESSIONAL (ADULTS)

There are many different ways to screen for abuse for adults with autism, including: in person, computer-assisted, pencil and paper.

Tips when screening for abuse:

Research suggests that computer-assisted screening may work best for individuals with autism or developmental delays.

Ask questions in a private area to promote safety and confidentiality.

Use open ended questions and allow the person time to process and respond.

When screening, it's important to screen for all types of abuse, as when someone is experiencing one type of abuse - it's likely they may also be experiencing other types.

Avoid asking leading questions, allow the person to share in their own words what happened.

The Life Events Checklist for DSM-5 (LEC-5) is considered the "gold standard" to screen for abuse. This is a self-report tool that screens for potentially traumatic events. While typically administered in a paper and pencil format, it can be entered into a computer for individuals to report electronically.



If you suspect someone may have been abused, some potential screening questions may include:

Has anyone ever touched your private parts when you did not want them to?

Has anyone in your home ever hit, punched or slapped you?

Do you get enough to eat and drink in your home?

Does anyone ever call you names or threaten to hurt you?

www.paautism.org/BeSafe

These resources were developed in collaboration with Angela Moreland, PhD and Grace Hubel, PhD, National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Medical University of South Carolina.

ASERT is funded by the PA Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs, Bureau of Autism Services