

## **Brain Injury Severity Assessment (BISA) Interview**

For the following assessment, "yes" responses will require further probing. For each "yes" response, the following information should be obtained for each alteration or loss of consciousness:

- 1) specifics of the incident;
  - 2) how long the alteration or loss of consciousness lasted;
  - 3) how many such incidents have ever occurred;
  - 4) the time frame within which the incidents have occurred including the following: the most recent incident, when the first such incident occurred, approximate times when other incidents in between occurred. Remember that it is important to acquire information on the first, last and time in between incidents.
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**Now I would like to ask you a little more about things that may have happened to you after something that your partner may have done to you after you had an argument or disagreement or something like that. Some of the questions I ask may be difficult to answer or remember, so please just take your time in answering and do your best.**

**After anything that your partner has ever done to you, have you ever lost consciousness or blacked out? (If yes...)**

Could you tell me more about that and about what happened?

When did that happen?

How long did the blackout last?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

[If she says no to the above question or provides no response, consider probing based on abuse severity info (e.g., if it was reported that he punched her in the head repeatedly)]

**After anything that your partner ever did to you, did you ever feel dizzy...? (If yes...)**

Could you tell me more about that and about what happened?

What was that like for you? What does it feel like for you to be dizzy?

When did that happen?

How long did the dizziness last?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

**After anything that your partner ever did to you, did you ever feel stunned, really disoriented or have the sense of not knowing where you were or what time it was? (If yes...)**

Could you tell me more about that and about what happened?

What does it feel like for you to be stunned or disoriented?

When did that happen?

How long did this feeling last?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

**After anything that your partner ever did to you, did you ever "see stars or spots"...? (If yes...)**

Could you tell me more about that and about what happened?

What was it like seeing stars (or use spots, whichever term she used)? Could you describe that for me?

When did that happen?

How long were you "seeing stars (or spots)"?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

**After anything that your partner ever did to you, did you ever have any problems remembering things that happened right before or after that happened? (If yes...)**

Could you tell me more about that and about what happened?

What types of things couldn't you remember?

When did that happen?

For how long were you not able to remember?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

**After anything that your partner ever did to you, did you ever have to go to the hospital? Did you ever feel that you should have gone to the hospital even if you didn't go to the hospital? (If yes...)**

What happened? Could you describe that a little for me?

When did that happen?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

### **Other Brain Injury Incidents**

[If previous reports of loss of consciousness] **Other than things that you just told me about, can you remember any times when you lost consciousness or blacked out?**

[If yes, ask...]

What happened? Could you describe that a little for me?

When did that happen?

How long did the blackout last?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

[If the woman has reported no abusive incidents of blacking out at all, ask]

**Can you remember any times when you lost consciousness or blacked out? (If yes...)**

What happened? Could you describe that a little for me?

When did that happen?

How long did the blackout last?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

**Can you remember any times that you might have hit your head, had your head hit with something, or were shaken up? [if yes...]**

Could you tell me little about what happened?

When did that happen?

How long were you unconsciousness?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

**How about times where you felt dizzy? (If yes...)**

What happened then? Could you describe that for me?

When did that happen?

How long were you feeling dizzy?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

**How about times where you felt stunned, really disoriented, or had the sense of not knowing where you were or what time it was? (If yes...)**

What happened? Could you describe what happened and what it felt like for you to feel stunned or disoriented?

When did that happen?

How long did you have this feeling?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

**How about times where you "saw stars or spots"? (If yes...)**

What happened? What was it like seeing stars (or use spots, whichever term she used)? Could you describe that for me?

When did that happen?

How long were you "seeing stars (or spots)"?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

**How about problems remembering things right before or after an accident or specific event? (If yes)**

Could you tell me a little more about that? What types of things couldn't you remember?

When did that happen?

How long were you unable to remember things?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

**Have you ever had to go to the hospital after an accident you had? Did you ever feel that you should have gone to the hospital even if maybe you didn't go to the hospital? (If yes...)**

Could you tell what happened?

When did that happen?

How long were you at the hospital?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?

**Was there ever a time as a child, when you felt any of the things I just mentioned such as losing consciousness, feeling dizzy, disoriented, or seeing stars or spots? Were there any times when you had to go to the hospital or thought that you should have gone to the hospital for any reason? (If yes...)**

Could you tell me what happened?

When did that happen?

How long did you have the problem?

Has that ever happened before?

When was the first time that ever happened?

When was the last time that happened?