

Working with Victims from Marginalized Communities

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Measuring Success

- Victim's safety
 - Initial report
 - During case
 - After the case
- Building a case
- Getting through trial
- Fostering trust in the process
- Long-term well-being

What is a Marginalized Community?

- Immigrant & Refugee
- People of Color
- Mentally ill
- Homeless
- Addict
- Case-specific marginalization

Tips for Success

- Make use of advocates, community-based services, interpreters
- Maintain frequent, transparent communication
- Recognize the need for cultural competency
- Understand the other challenges faced by victim
- Treat each case individually

Barriers to Success

- Fear/distrust of system
- Competing issues
 - Addiction
 - Mental health
 - Language
- Pressure not to report or follow-through
- Past experience

Initial Report

- Start by believing
- Understand the barriers to reporting
- Expect difficulty getting a narrative
- Prioritize dealing with safety planning, providing resources
- Be careful about the information you provide
- Use a professional interpreter

Initial Report

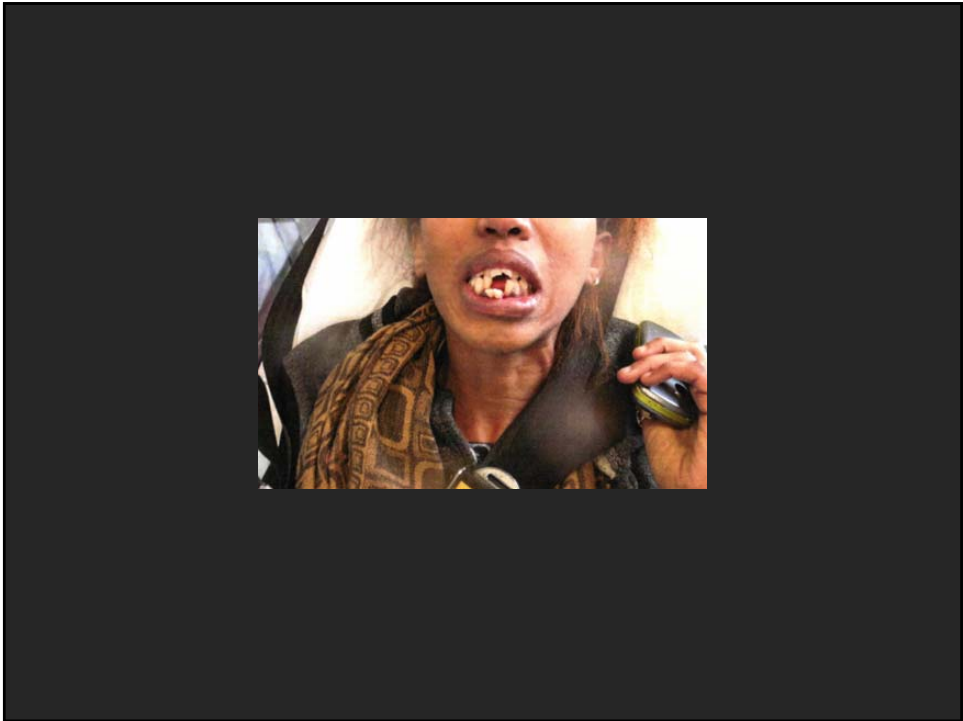
- Social worker
- Advocate
- Medical professionals
- Law enforcement

Follow-up Investigation and Charging

- Expect to learn more
- Make a first impression
- Consider joint interview

Early Stages of a Case

- Maintaining frequent contact
- Learning about the victim as a person
- Assessing safety risks
- Refer to services



Negotiation or Trial?

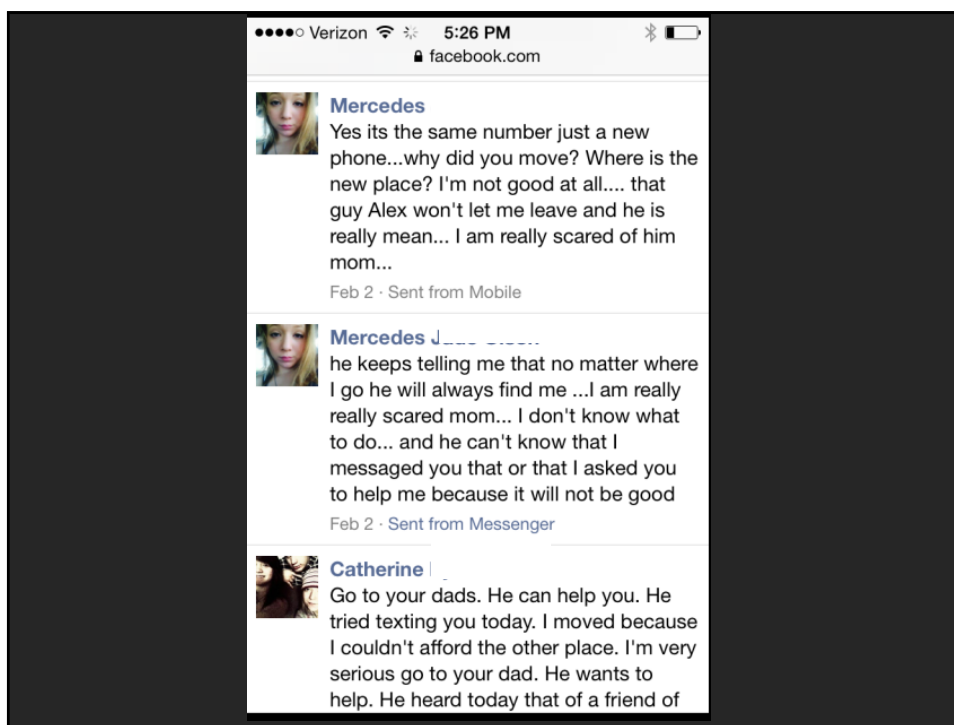
- Victim's position
 - Proof without victim
 - Proof with recanting victim
- Safety considerations
 - Risk of testifying
 - Sentence range
- Risk of further marginalization
- Other considerations

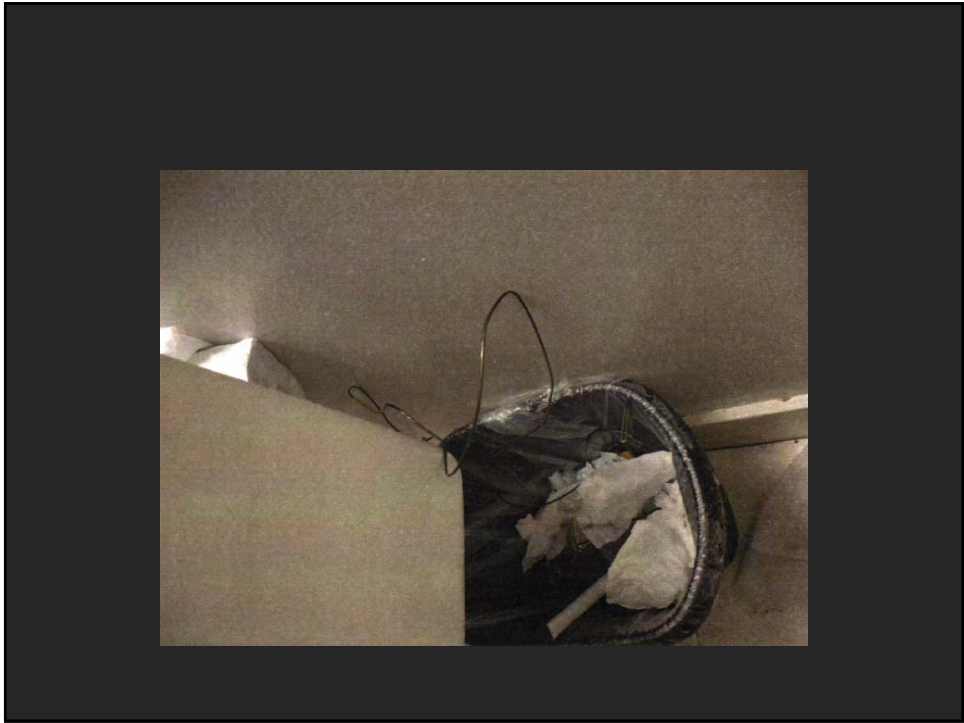
Trial Strategies

- Preparing for trial
 - Interview
 - Securing attendance

Trial Strategies

- Jury selection
- Opening
- Testimony
- Closing





Mercedes

Text or call this number and say mercedes needs help...206-450-6806. Hillside room 1

Sunday at 5:00pm · Sent from Messenger



Catherine

That phone is off. What do I do

Sunday at 5:39pm



Catherine

Please stay in touch with me. I can still come out there if you want me to and if you are ready . Please don't shut us out because things didn't go so well tonight . I love you and want to help however I can. Be safe and let me know how I can help you.

Today at 4:38am



Catherine

Please get in touch with me. I need to know what you want to do.

Questions?

- Contact info:
 - King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
 - bridgette.maryman@kingcounty.gov