



# ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

## Gathering Information for a Gladue Report

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*Questions compiled by the CBA Indigenous Advisory Group –  
Criminal Justice member, Sherry Abotossaway “Nimkiikwe”.*

## Sentencing Submissions – Information to Collect

Let the client know that you will collect the following information for submissions, as you need to let the Court know:

*“The unique systemic factors that brought the client before the court i.e., why they are before the Court, what cultural factors may have brought them there, why did they end up getting into trouble with the law”.*

### The Client

1. Age?
2. Birthplace?
3. Current Residence?
4. Marital status?
  - a. What has the clients previous relationships been like?
  - b. If in a current relationship, what is that relationship like?
  - c. If in a current relationship, how does the client work out conflict with that partner?
  - d. Has there been an assault on any previous or a current partner?
5. Do you have children
  - a. How old are the children?
  - b. What are their names? (First names are sufficient)
  - c. Where and with whom do the children live with?
  - d. Is the client in contact with their children?
  - e. Does the client provide financial support to their children?
  - f. Does the client meet the needs of their children?
    - i. Financially?
    - ii. Emotionally?

### Occupation

1. Does the client work?
  - a. If the client works, what is their usual occupation?
  - b. If unemployed or seasonal work, take note of what the employment situation is in their community/First Nation?
2. Is the client able to live on their own?
3. Does the client feel connected to their family and/or children?
4. Is the client able to take care of themselves?
  - a. Do they pay their own bills?

- b. Do they buy their own groceries?
- c. Do they do their own cooking and cleaning?

### Clients Family

1. Parents names?
  - a. Are they alive or deceased?
  - b. If deceased, when?
2. Are parents together, separated or divorced?
3. Does the client find support from their parents?
4. What was the client's relationship like with their parents?
  - a. Growing up?
  - b. Currently?
  - c. Name any positive experiences.
  - d. Name any negative experiences.
5. Did any of the client's parents attend residential school?
6. Does the client have Siblings?
  - a. Names and ages.
  - b. Are any siblings supportive of the client?
  - c. What was the client's relationship with their siblings growing up?
7. Are there any other family members that are supportive of the client?
8. Grandparent's names.
  - a. Maternal Grandparents.
    - i. Are they alive or deceased?
    - ii. If deceased, when?
  - b. Paternal Grandparents
    - i. Are they alive or deceased?
    - ii. If deceased, when?
9. Did any of the client's grandparents attend residential school?
10. Are there events within the client's family that has affected the client as it relates to the client becoming involved in the justice system?
11. Did the client attend residential school?
  - a. If attended at a residential school, how have they been affected by this?
  - b. Has the client been affected by the 60's scoop

i. If affected by the 60's scoop, how have they been affected by this?

12. How has the client coped with traumatic events?

- a. How does the client respond to traumatic events?
- b. Is the client resilient or respond in destructive way(s) to traumatic events?

### Social Factors

1. Where did you grow up?

- a. Aboriginal community?
- b. Non-Aboriginal community?
- c. Both?

2. What was community life like?

- a. Were their activities to attend?
- b. Places to go within the community for entertainment?

3. What was your childhood like?

- a. Were you involved in sports?
- b. Did you go to camp, fishing, trapping etc?
- c. Were their extracurricular activities that you were involved in?

4. Where did you attend school?

5. What was your experience while attending school?

- a. Socially?
- b. Academically?

6. What is the client's level of self-esteem?

- a. Low self-esteem?
- b. High self-esteem?

7. Has the client ever experienced abuse?

- a. What form of abuse?
- b. When did this occur?
- c. By whom? (no names necessary. Include position, parent, foster parent, cousin, stranger etc.)

8. Have you ever experienced racism?

- a. Where?
- b. When?
- c. By whom? (where person known)

9. Have you ever experienced Violence?

- a. Where did the violence occur?

- b. When did it occur?
  - c. By whom? (where person known)
10. Have you experienced Trauma?
- a. When did this occur?
  - b. What was the trauma?
  - c. If it was the passing of a loved one, who was it and when did it occur?
    - i. How has this trauma affected the client?

### Substance Abuse

1. Do you have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE)? (Are you aware if your mother drink while she was pregnant with you)
  - a. Have you been officially diagnosed with FASD/FAE?
2. Do you have addictions?
  - a. What is the clients history of substance abuse?
  - b. When did the client start abusing drugs/alcohol?
  - c. Was there a reason why or something that instigated the use of substances?
  - d. Does the client misuse substances as a coping mechanism?
  - e. How often does the Client misuse substances?
  - f. If the client currently uses substances, why do they continue too?
3. Has the client ever been to treatment?
  - a. If so, when did they attend treatment? (if client can recall)
  - b. If not, if needed, why have they not attended for treatment?

### Mental Health

1. Does the client suffer from any mental health issues? This can include:

ADHD, autism, anger, anxiety and panic attacks, bipolar disorder, body dysmorphic disorder, borderline personality disorder, depression, dissociation and dissociative disorders, eating disorders, hypomania and mania, Obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic attacks, paranoia, phobias, PTSD or schizophrenia?  
*(This is just a short list to assist)*

### Cultural Factors

1. Cultural Background
  - a. Does the client speak their language?
  - b. Does the client identify with a community/First Nation?
  - c. Do they participate in cultural ceremonies such as:
    - i. Smudging?
    - ii. Pow wows? (do they have regalia and dance at pow wows)
    - iii. Sun dance ceremony?
    - iv. Coming out ceremony?
    - v. Any other cultural ceremonies?

## Bail Submissions – Information to Collect

### The Client

1. Age?
2. Birthplace?
3. Current Residence?
4. Marital status?
5. Children? and if so, how many?
6. Occupation?

### Clients Family

1. Parents names? (alive or deceased and if deceased, when)
2. Siblings? (If so, names and ages)
3. Grandparents
  - a. Maternal Grandparents? (alive or deceased and if deceased, when)
  - b. Paternal Grandparents? (alive or deceased and if deceased, when)
4. Did client, parents or grandparents attend residential school?
5. How has that affected the client?

### Social Factors

1. Where did you grow up?
2. What was community life like?
3. What was your childhood like?
4. Where did you attend school?
5. What was your experience?
6. What was your relationship like with your parents, growing up/now?
  - a. Positive experiences
  - b. Negative experiences
7. Did any of your Parents or Grandparents go to Residential school?

8. Did you ever experience abuse?
9. Have you ever experienced racism?
10. Have you ever experienced Violence?
11. Have you experienced Trauma?

### Substance Abuse

1. Do you have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) or Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE)? (Are you aware if your mother drink while she was pregnant with you)
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  - e. How often does the Client use substances?
  - f. If the client currently uses substances, why do they continue too?
3. Has the client ever been to treatment?

### Mental Health

1. Does the client suffer from any mental health issues, this can include ADHD, anxiety, depression, etc?

### Cultural Factors

1. Cultural Background
  - a. Does the client speak their language?
  - b. Does the client identify with a community/First Nation?
  - c. Do they participate in cultural ceremonies such as smudging, pow wows etc?