

BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CLIENT AND INTERVIEW ESSENTIALS

Enter into the relationship with your client with a commitment to being a client centered lawyer



The client drives the representation and we



Before you meet your client, research the background that what she is going through is likely foreign to her. Even police records can be very intimidating. Showing your client the criminal punishment system process is likely terrifying. Showing your client the and knowledgeable you have in his mind.

Know your trade and your client

It's your job to explain your role to your client

Tell him that you are both an advocate and





GIDEON'S PROMISE

Strengthening Public Defenders
Transforming Public Defense

INTERVIEW ESSENTIALS

Enter into the relationship
with your client with a
commitment to being a client
centered lawyer



The client drives the representation and we
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commitment to being a client centered lawyer



The client drives the representation and we must advocate for those goals set by our client unless that advocacy falls outside of the realm of ethical conduct.

Be sensitive to potential limitations

Many of our clients are illiterate or suffer from mental health problems. Other clients may be victims of abuse or intellectually disabled.

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Show concern about your client as a person and demonstrate an interest in learning who your client is.



Show your client is willing to pay for innocent.

He probably believes you for him if you believe





Before you meet your client, keep in mind that what she is going through is likely foreign to her. Even people with prior records can be very ignorant as to how the criminal punishment system works. The process is likely terrifying and confusing. Showing your client that you are competent and knowledgeable you will do much to ease his mind.

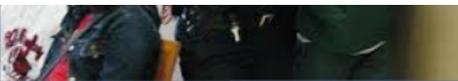
**Know your trade and educate
your client**

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Know your trade and educate your client

Job to explain your client





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your client

It's your job to explain
your role to your client

Tell him that you are both an advocate and an advisor and explain what those roles entail.

Explain confidentiality and
your ethical duty to
maintain client confidences.

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Explain confidentiality and your ethical duty to maintain client confidences.

Answer any questions your client may have about public defense and the negative connotations associated with being a public defender.



Answer any questions your client may have about public defense and the negative connotations associated with being a public defender.

It's your job to make sure your client knows the procedural progression of his case as well as the law governing upcoming hearings.

Explain the elements of the charged offense, the presumption of innocence, State's burden of proof, and why State thinks your client is guilty.

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If your client is incarcerated, then explain potential options for his release, money bail or otherwise, and strategies to accomplish his stated interest.

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Clients value communication that is consistent, thorough, and straightforward. They also want honesty and trust to be a two-way street. They perceived a direct correlation between the degree to which attorneys believed their innocence and their attorneys' ability to obtain legal relief. Clients immediately vetted their attorneys based on whether attorneys seemed to believe their telling of the case. *"I asked [my SADO attorney], like, do you believe first, do you believe in me and my innocence?... If she didn't have no belief in me, I didn't want her."* An attorney who believes in a client's innocence is an ally rather than just a lawyer. *"And I guess that was part of why I felt good about the process, was she believed what I was saying. And then I didn't have to fight it. I didn't have to speak anymore. It's like she was speaking for me."* Clients explained that attorneys who believed in their innocence would fight harder to overturn their convictions. *"Imagine yourself in they shoes. And if you believe that they're innocent and you want to switch places, how would you feel? Would you want somebody to do a half job or go the extra mile to clear you?"*

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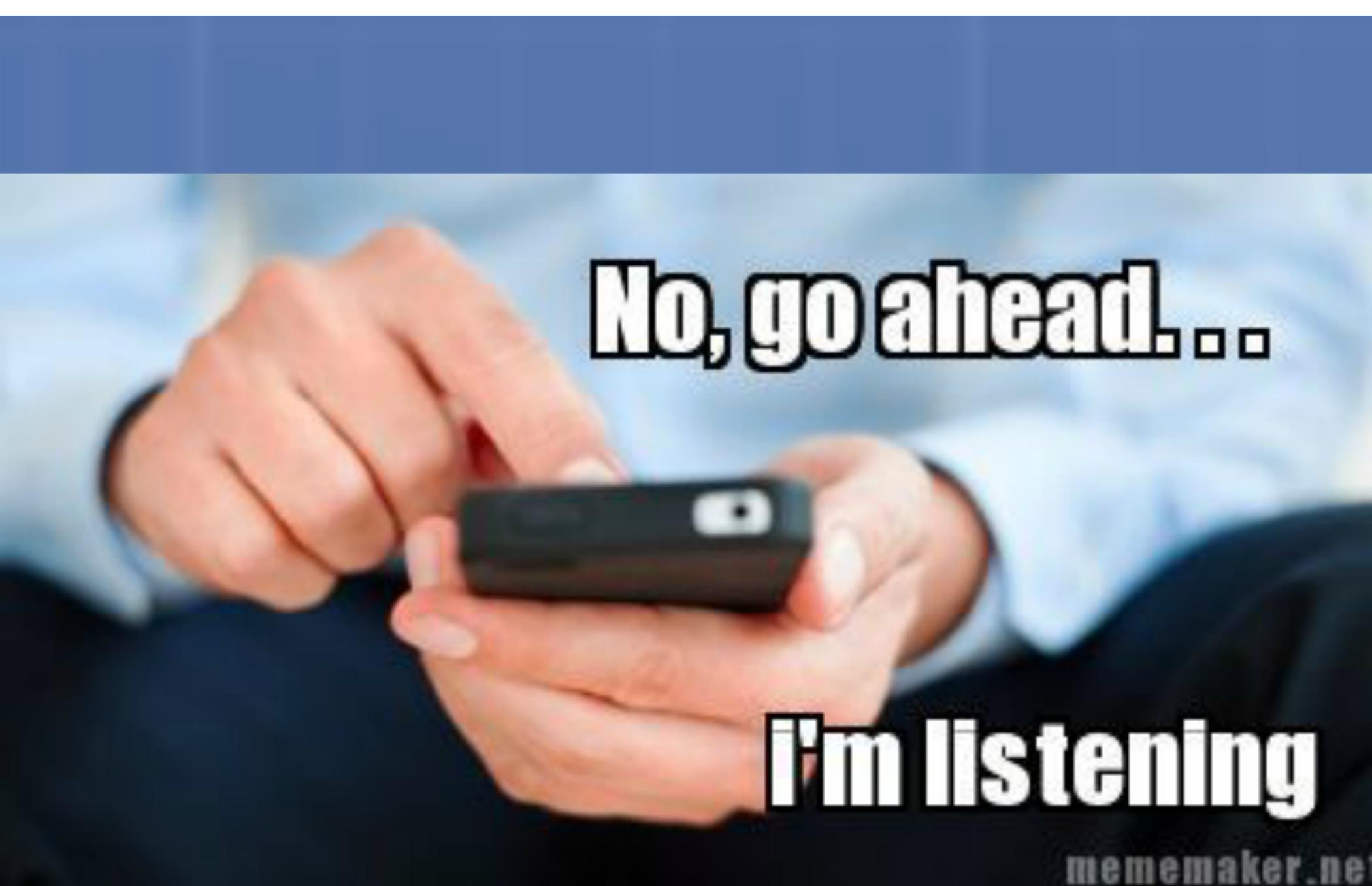
When interviewing, ask questions like “who will say they saw you do this?” instead of “who saw you do this?”

Show concern about your client as a person and demonstrate an interest in learning who your client is.

Be yourself and be present in the moment



Give your client your full attention. We are all busy but the people you represent deserve your undivided attention. Multi-tasking also hinders performance.



No, go ahead...

i'm listening

mememaker.net

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Be mindful of differences

Be conscious of differences between you and your client such as race, gender, age, sexual orientation, and culture

Do not assume you know how these differences will impact your client

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Project Implicit®

11 harbor unconscious biases and slowing
Prezi to know your client and vice versa
Lesson the effects these biases have on the



YouTube



Project Implicit®

We all harbor unc



We all harbor unconscious biases and slowing down to get to know your client and vice versa can lessen the effects these biases have on the attorney client relationship



Be sensitive to potential limitations

Many of our clients have limitations that are not obvious and many times they are too embarrassed or just incapable of revealing them

some clients are illiterate or suffer from mental health problems. Other clients may be victims of abuse or intellectually disabled.

Getting to know your client's history will reveal many of these otherwise hidden limitations.

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Limitations

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Review your client's history for any of these otherwise unexplained limitations.

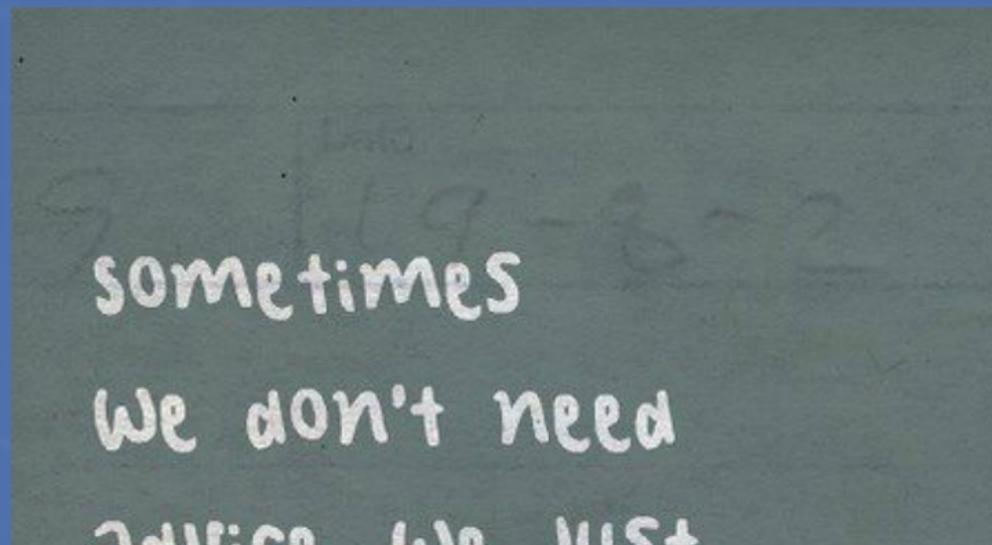
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Getting to know your client's history
will reveal many of these otherwise
hidden limitations.

and who we say it to, so be mindful of how you are perceived by others.

You don't always have to be doing something



sometimes

We don't need

advice, we just

need someone

to listen.



Never make promises you can't keep but make some that you can

client updated and maintain regular contact

now you are a fighter

lot of relationships get better after your client sees you stand up for them in court

Never make promises you can't keep but make what you can

Keep your client updated and maintain regular contact

Show you are a fighter
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Be conscious of how you relate to others around your client

Clients, their families, their friends, all watching how we behave and what we say and who we say it to, so be mindful of how you are perceived by others.

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CLIENT INTERVIEW

Date: _____

Name: _____ Case No(s): _____

DOB: _____ Sex: _____ Race: _____ English Proficient: Yes No

Offense(s) charged: _____

Victim: Yes No Name(s): _____

Violence and/or weapons: Yes No Protection Order: Yes No

Holds: None Parole Probation: Felony Probation: Misd. ICE Other _____

Currently on bond for other charges(s)? Yes No other charges: _____

PRE-TRIAL RELEASE CRITERIA:

A. Employment status, history of accused: _____

B. Nature and Extent of family relationships: _____

C. Past and Present Residences: _____

D. Current and former mental health treatment (diagnosis; treatment; medications; dosage):

E. Current and former drug/alcohol treatment: _____

F. Who will agree to assist accused to appear? Information re: that person: _____

G. Who to contact to vouch for/testify for client: _____

H. Prior Criminal History and FTAs: _____

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I. Possible/probable sentence if convicted (i.e. will the person likely be granted probation or other community sentence if convicted of the offense?) Include here if any plea offers have been made.

J.

K. Facts indicating possibility of new charge if person in custody is released without certain conditions:

L. Facts/lack of facts indicating the possibility of witness intimidation: _____

M. Ties to community/community involvement: _____

N. Military service history: _____

O. Any other factors indicating ties to the community, why won't flee, and absence of community danger concerns:

a. Years in Mississippi? In city/county? _____

b. Education: _____

c. Pretrial Conditions to ensure appearance: _____
