

After the interview

Debriefing

Despite the fact that there is often a lack of time to debrief with the interpreter, consider nonetheless taking some time to discuss critical incidents, interpreting issues and – if needed - possible supervision or (psychological) support for the interpreter.

If possible, do take some time (at least five minutes) to debrief with the interpreter about how the interview went. The debriefing, however, should never be used to ask the interpreter's opinion about the child, about truth or lies, about the content of the interview itself, or indeed about your task as interviewer. Rather it should focus on the interview in light of the interpreting task or, possibly, on any emotional challenges faced by the interpreter during the interview. It can be very useful to look back on what went right or wrong as discussed in the previous documents, e.g. seating arrangement, interpreting mode, role boundaries, rapport-building, critical incidents, flagging delicate, cultural or other issues, and metalanguage. Take a few minutes to discuss how it was for you as a professional to work with the interpreter and ask the interpreter how it was for him/her. Keep in mind that the interpreter might be affected by the interview itself and may need supervision or even psychological support. Remember that the interpreter is not trained like you, as a professional, are to participate in this kind of interview every day. An interpreter finds himself/herself every day – or even several times a day – in completely different situations that can be emotionally hard or at least diverse.