

Research Questions

Tailored to participants who do not necessarily have significant knowledge of FASD:

- How familiar are you with FASD? (for those not necessarily experienced in issues of FASD)?
- Have you experienced clients (accused, witnesses) who have FASD or whom you suspect may have FASD?
- Do you think FASD is an important issue for the criminal justice system?

Tailored to all participants:

- Is FASD a significant concern in your work? Why/Why not?
- How many accused do you believe have FASD?
- How many victims or witnesses do you believe have FASD?
- How do you usually find out if a justice client has FASD? (i.e., raised by defence, documented in files, apparent by behaviours in court, etc).
- Are you familiar with the FASD diagnostic process?
- Does knowledge that an individual has FASD impact case decision making? Do you think it should impact case decision making? In what way? At what stage of the criminal justice process do you think identification of FASD is most critical (e.g., pre-charge, sentencing, corrections, etc)?
- Do you have specific suggestions for improving the identification of FASD within the criminal justice system? Please describe.
- If you had a wish list of being able to deal with clients with FASD more efficiently, what would it be? (e.g., more awareness/training, community supports, adapted programming, access to assessments, standardized information gathering, etc)?

Tailored to judges/Crown:

- If you are aware an accused has FASD does that impact case decision making? Why/Why not?
- Are FASD diagnostic assessments important for case decision making? Would having an assessment impact your decision making?
- Have you ever requested an FASD assessment? Why/Why not? Under what circumstances would you request an assessment? What are the challenges in requesting assessments? (e.g., adults for fitness determination only, wait times, impact on case processing time, diagnostic capacity in the jurisdiction, financial responsibility, etc). If yes, what section of the *Criminal Code* or *YCJA* did you refer to?
- What type of information would you like about an individual who may have FASD in order to assist in decision making if a diagnostic assessment is not feasible?

Tailored to defense counsel

- Have you ever represented a client you suspected of having FASD, or was formally diagnosed, and not raised the issue to the court over concerns that it would negatively impact the outcome for your client? Describe.
- What factors would impact your decisions in terms of willingness to disclose if a client has FASD?