

WHAT WE CARRY

TRAUMA-INFORMED GUIDANCE FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

WHY MIGHT CLIENTS FROM MARGINALIZED BACKGROUNDS DISTRUST THE LEGAL SYSTEM?

- Racist policing and mass incarceration
- Mistreatment of sexual or domestic violence survivors
- Criminalization of LGBTQIA+ individuals
- Punitive immigration laws
- Hostile court environments

PHRASES TO BUILD SAFETY & CULTURAL HUMILITY

- "We're here to work with you, not judge you."
- "Take your time – we can go at your pace."
- "You shouldn't have had to experience that."
- "Is there anything I can do to help you feel safer right now?"

WAYS TO CHECK YOUR OWN BIASES

- Notice who you tend to view as "credible" or "cooperative."
- Challenge stereotypes around demeanor or eye contact.