

The schematic above represents a snapshot of the Therapeutic Dialogues presentation. It begins from the perspective of the Socratic Method as a methodology for interviewing using a question-based format. Two conceptual frameworks are employed that provide the interviewer with a frame of reference out of which the interview proceeds. The concept of "judicial midwifery" is borrowed from the Socratic/Platonic notion of the "philosophical midwife" as someone who assists in the birth of the philosophical or intellectual child. We proceed then from the conceptual to the practical and make some determination as to the defendant's motivational status (i.e., active, passive or resistive), which provides direction as to the focus of the interview. The actual interviewing strategies (i.e., solution-focused, motivational, and/or transformational) are flavored by the qualities of prestige (i.e., source credibility), intensity of language used, as well as the emotional state aroused in the defendant. The final step in the process is the selection and application of one or more specific dialogue strategies to be employed with the defendant.