Clarification Questions

Listed below are examples of questions victims have asked their offender, either in writing, on video, or in person.

- Why did you molest me?
- How can you live with yourself after what you did?
- How did you trick me?
- Do you still love me even though I told?
- Is the treatment helping? How?
- Will you molest again?
- Do you hate me?
- Why did you interfere in my life?
- How did you keep mom from knowing?
- Why did you set rules and didn’t follow them?
- Didn’t you feel guilty about what you did and tell yourself not to do it again? Then why did you keep doing it?
- Do you still think of yourself as my father or did you ever?
- How do you think the abuse has affected my life?
- How did you just ignore my crying?
- Did you ever think I was scared?
- Why do I always feel separate from other members of the family — the odd ball — like I don’t fit in?
- Why did you seem the better parent than mom?
- How did you think I felt when you were abusing me?
- Why did you wreck the relationship between me and mom?
- What was going through your mind before you abused me?
- What do you need to work on in treatment?
- What do you see in the future for our family?
- How will you know when you’re ready for visits?

Resource: Meinig, M. Harborview CBT+ 03