HANDOUT 17C.2 WORKING WITH CAREGIVERS

Case Study:

Maria is a 22 year-old survivor of GBV. Maria is living with an intellectual disability, as well as a physical disability. Maria stated she wanted her mother involved throughout the case management process, and has given her permission for her mother to sit in on all case management sessions. Recently, Maria was re-victimized by her abuser. While Maria’s mother strongly wants Maria to report the abuse to the local police. Maria demonstrates difficulty understanding the process of filing a report with the police and the potential consequences of reporting. Furthermore, Maria states, “I don’t want to get him in trouble!” when speaking of the abuser, and expresses fear of police involvement and the legal system.

**Questions**:

Would it be in Maria’s best interest to pursue police involvement?

What are the potential safety concerns that arise if a report is filed?

What are the potential safety concerns that arise if a report is NOT filed?

Does filing a report reflects Maria’s needs/wants?

Does filing a report promote Maria’s healing, safety and empowerment?

What strategies would you take to work with the caregivers in this situation so that you are putting the best interests of Maria first but also responding to her parents concerns?