HANDOUT 6.1 ARE YOU ASKING FOR IT?[[1]](#footnote-1)

Interviewer: “Mr. Forna, you were held up at gun point on the corner in the main square, is that correct?”

**Mr. Forna: “Yes.”**

Interviewer: “Did you struggle with the robber?”

**Mr. Forna: “No.”**

Interviewer: “Why not?”

**Mr. Forna: “He was armed.”**

Interviewer: “Then you made a conscious decision to comply with his demands rather than resist?”

**Mr. Forna:** **“Yes.”**

Interviewer: “Did you scream? Cry out?”

**Mr. Forna: “No. I was afraid.”**

Interviewer: “I see. Have you ever been held up before?”

**Mr. Forna: “No.”**

Interviewer: “Have you ever given money away?”

**Mr. Forna: “Yes, of course.”**

Interviewer: “And you did so willingly?”

**Mr. Forna: “What are you getting at?”**

Interviewer: “Well, let’s put it like this, Mr. Forna. You’ve given money away in the past. In fact, you have quite a reputation for philanthropy. How can we be sure you weren’t contriving to have your money taken by force?”

**Mr. Forna: “Listen, if I wanted –”**

Interviewer: “Never mind. What time did this hold up take place?”

**Mr. Forna: “About 11 p.m.”**

Interviewer: “You were out on the street at 11 p.m.? Doing what?”

**Mr. Forna: “Just walking.”**

Interviewer: “Just walking? You know that it’s dangerous being out on the street that late at night. Weren’t you aware that you could have been held up?”

**Mr. Forna: “I hadn’t thought about it.”**

Interviewer: “What were you wearing?”

**Mr. Forna: “Let’s see – a suit. Yes, a suit.”**

Interviewer: “An expensive suit?”

**Mr. Forna: “Well – yes. I’m a successful lawyer, you know.”**

Interviewer: “In other words, Mr. Forna, you were walking around the streets late at night in a suit that practically advertised the fact that you might be a good target for some easy money, isn’t that so? I mean, if we didn’t know better, Mr. Forna, we might even think that you were asking for this to happen, isn’t that right?”

1. Adapted from Rape Victim Advocacy Programme *‘Crisis Line Trainer’s Manual’* (Unpublished). RVAP: Iowa City, Iowa 2001. Cited from Harper’s magazine article. Originally published by the Journal of the American Bar Association. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)