

Introducing the GAIN-SS to a client

3.2 Introduction (*excerpt from the GAIN-SS manual*)

Research suggests that the validity of clients' answers is improved if clients understand the interview process and know how their information will be used (Boruch, Dennis, & Cecil, 1996). Therefore, it is important to cover this material when introducing the GAIN-SS to the client. Below is a sample script. For ease of use, a copy of this introduction also appears on the tear-off sheet at the back of the manual.

The interviewer or other staff member should read the following script.

- This instrument is designed to find out how you're doing in terms of your mental health and behavior. It takes about 5 minutes to answer.
- The information is private. It will be used only for your treatment and to help us evaluate our own services.
- If you are not sure about an answer, please give us your best guess.
- If you simply do not know the answer to a question, you can tell me and I'll enter "DK" for that item. You may also refuse to answer any question, and I'll enter "RF" for that item.
- Please ask if you do not understand a question or a word.
- At the end of the interview, I will check to make sure that everything is complete, and I'll answer any additional questions.
- Do you have any questions before we begin?

Note to providers: Feel free to modify or make additions to this script to ensure it is consistent with your agency's protocols.