

# Communicating Effectively In Your Courtroom – Communicating Sensitively.

An NJI Event  
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# Who is Robert Wright?

- RSW Private Practitioner
- Ex. Dir. The Peoples' Counselling Clinic
- Former:
  - Ex. Dir. of Child & Youth Strategy – NS
  - Ex. Dir. Child Welfare – Cumberland Co., NS
  - Acadia University: Trauma Informed Approaches to Mental Health – Africentric Perspectives



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# Trauma – A Definition

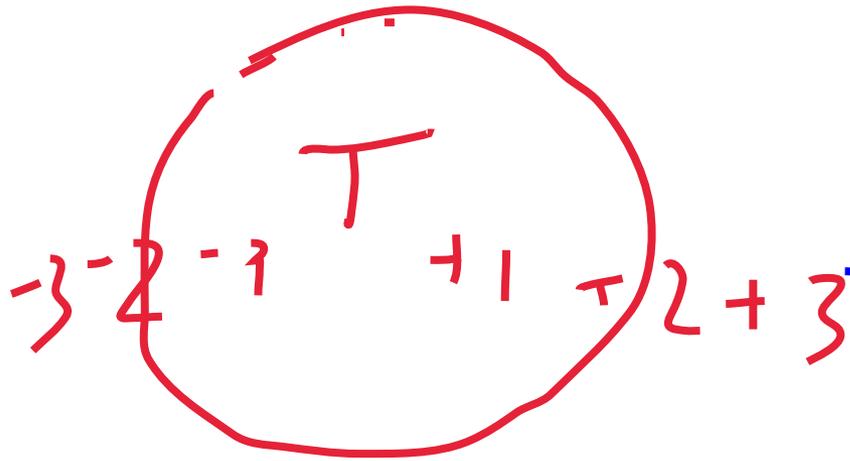
- Trauma is a type of injury one suffers when confronted with a dramatically threatening stimulus that *overwhelms one's ability to cope and/ or integrate the feelings caused by the experience.*
- The term **Trauma** refers to both the event and the particular response to that event.
- It is important to note that not all people will be traumatized by the same event. Our individual response to the event determines whether the event is a **Trauma**

# Trauma Statistics

- **76%** of Canadian adults report some form of trauma in their lifetime\*
  - (from Trauma-Informed Approaches: An Introduction and Discussion Guide for Health and Social Service Providers: Discussion Guide 1. May 2015)
- According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, about **1 in 10** people in Canada have/will suffer from PTSD.
- It is estimated that **1 of 3** women and **1 of 6** men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime
- **80%** of women in prisons and jails have been victims of sexual and physical abuse (higher incidence among forensic populations of all genders)

# Communicating in the Court Room

- Principles of Trauma informed work: Awareness, safety, choice, collaboration, strengths, skill building
- What Judges can Do:
  - See strengths
  - Demonstrate openness
  - Provide choice
  - Model trustworthiness
  - Build collaboration
  - Be human
  - Acknowledge trauma
  - Develop skills
  - Emphasize humanness
  - Remember perpetrators are victims



Social learning

Epigenetics .

# Q&A



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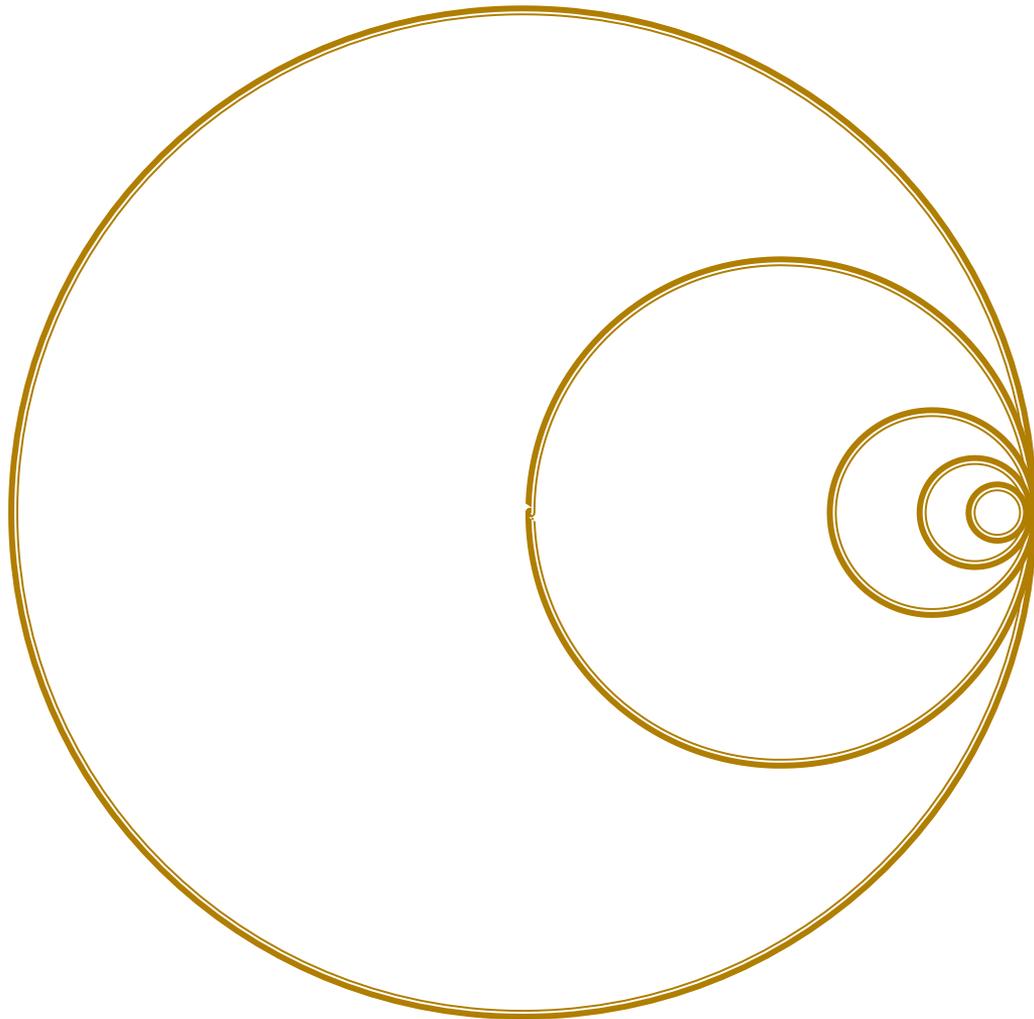
# Oh Wait! Q&A



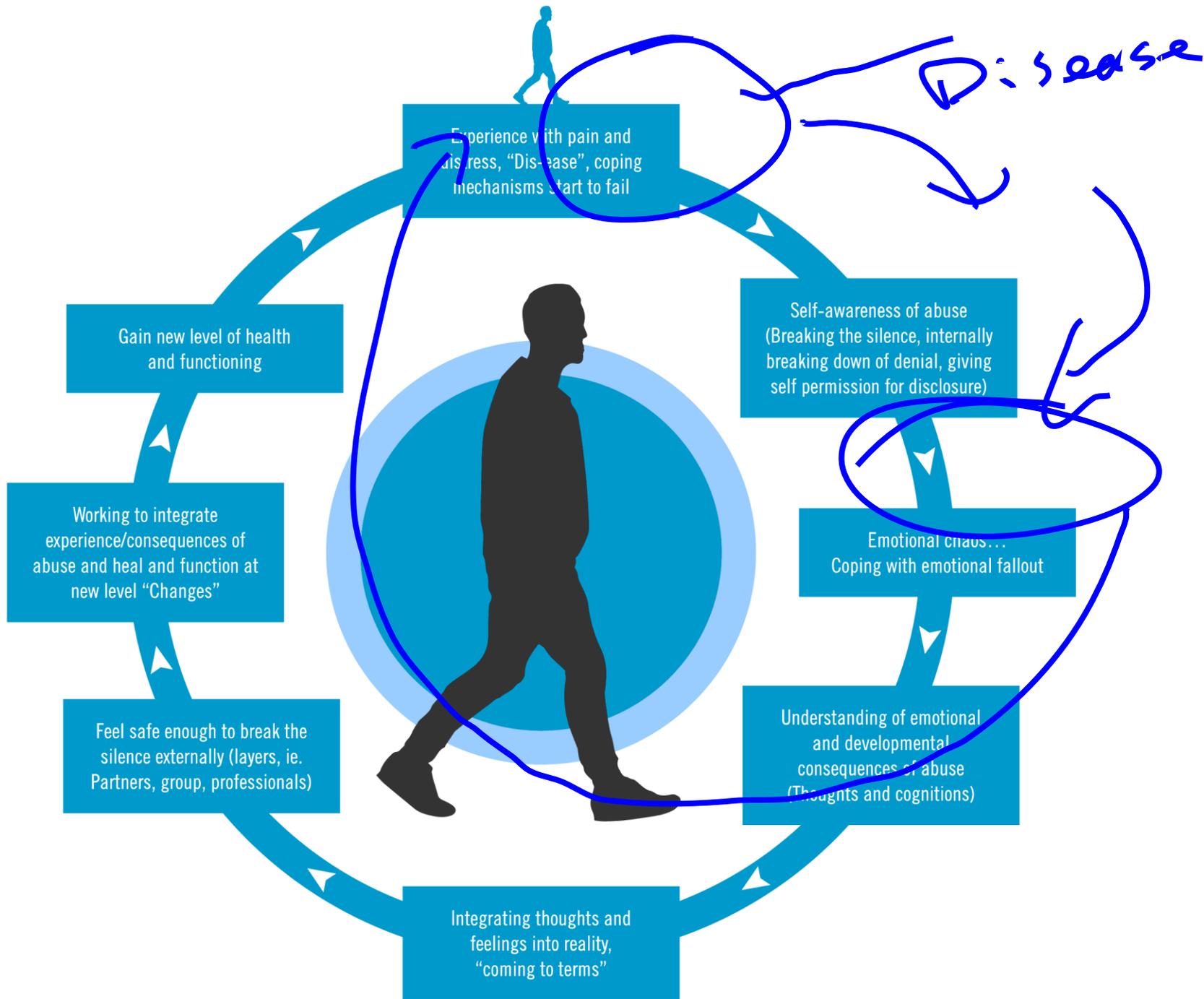
OPINIONS - 5¢  
THOUGHTS FOR  
THE DAY - 10¢  
SOUND ADVICE - 25¢



# Incidence and Reporting of Sexual Assaults



- Total assaults
- ~35% are disclosed
- ~6% reported formally to police
- 1/3 of those reported result in charges
- 1/2 of those result in convictions – 1% of assaults



Disease

X