

APPENDIX 3

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. So, tell me how you and “x” came to be friends . . .
2. So this means you’ve been friends for x years?
3. Have you always been so close, or have you lost touch for periods of time?
4. Can you recall a specific case of losing touch? Do you remember what made you reconnect?
5. How frequently would you say you talk to “x”? How often do you see “x”?
6. Did you know that “x” was straight/gay/lesbian when you first met him/her?
7. Did you ever have a “coming-out” conversation with “x”?
8. How did that conversation go? Do you remember details from that interaction?
9. Did your friend know about your sexual orientation?
10. Was either of you surprised? Was it an issue for either of you?
11. Most relationships have ups and downs. Can you tell me about some especially good and especially difficult times in this relationship?
12. How important would you say your friendship with “x” is to you?
13. Do you consult with “x” when making big life decisions, for example? Can you recall a specific example where this happened?
14. In general, how would you define a close or significant friend? Is this how you would characterize your friendship with “x”?
15. What kinds of things do you and “x” talk about? For example, do you talk about relationships? Feelings?
16. Are there any particular common interests that you and “x” discuss?
17. Are there topics you avoid discussing? Which in particular? Why do you think this is the case?
18. What kinds of activities do you do together?
19. Has your friendship with “x” given you experiences that you would not have had otherwise?
20. Has your friendship with “x” given you contact with groups or information that was not part of your everyday life? Can you give me an example of something in particular?

21. Would you characterize “x” as a “family” type of friend who is present for special occasions?
22. How do your other friends get along with “x”? Your family? Have you discussed your friend’s sexual orientation with them?
23. Do any of the people in your life have problems with your friendship with “x”?
24. How does “x” get along with the people you date/your partner(s)? How do your partner(s) get along with your friend?
25. How important is it to you that your partner accept your friendship with “x”?
26. How important is it to you that “x” approves/gets along with your partner?
27. Have you ever sensed jealousy between “x” and a partner? Can you give a specific example? If problems arise, how are they negotiated?
28. Have you ever used “x” as a means of comparison for people you date? What kinds of comparisons do you make?
29. Do you have children? How do they feel about “x”? What is their relationship? Have you explained your relationship with “x” to them? Have you disclosed her/his sexual orientation to them? Why or why not?
30. Have you ever discussed the possibility of you and “x” co-parenting?
31. Is anything keeping you from doing so?
32. Is this friendship similar to other friendships with men? Other friendships with women? How? Do you have any specific examples?
33. Do you have friends in common? Share social circles?
34. Do you sometimes find yourself in an entirely gay/straight environment when you are with your friend? How does that feel to you? Can you think of particular examples?
35. In general, would you say that this friendship provides something that others do not? Can you give me a specific instance in which you have found this to be true?
36. What is the greatest benefit you get out of this friendship?
37. In general, what would you say are the benefits of friendships like the one you have with “x”? I am referring to friendships between gay men and straight women, lesbians and straight men. What are the pros and cons of these types of friendships?
38. Do you think “x” ’s being a gay man/lesbian/straight man/straight woman affects your friendship in any particular way? How? Can you give me an example?
39. Do you think that “x” ’s being gay/lesbian/straight has ever had a negative impact on your friendship? How about your being gay/lesbian/straight? Can you give me a specific example?
40. Has your friendship with “x” ever made you wonder about your own sexual orientation? Have you encouraged “x” to question hers/his?
41. Have you ever taken “x” somewhere as your date? Describe that situation for me. If not, then would you consider that a possibility? Can you explain why or why not? In these cases, do you inform others that “x” is “just a friend”?
42. Do you feel like people expect you two to get together romantically? Do they assume you might? How do you respond to these suggestions?

43. How detailed are your discussions with your friend about romantic relationships? How about the sexual details? Do you feel comfortable with that level of disclosure? Do you discuss your behavior with “x”? Does “x” discuss romantic relationships/sexual details with you? Is this similar to your discussions with other friends? Why do you think this might be different with “x”?
44. Have you or “x” ever tried to play matchmaker for each other? Why or why not?
45. Have you ever been sexually involved with “x”?
46. Do any television or movie characters remind you of you and “x”? Which ones?
47. Would you say that there is something unique about you that makes you open to having a close friendship with a gay man/lesbian/straight man/straight woman? How would you characterize this “something?”
48. Do you think there is something unique about “x” that makes him/her different from other heterosexuals/homosexuals? Can you give me specifics?
49. Have you encountered situations in which people make negative remarks about homosexuals/heterosexuals? How do you respond? Can you give me an example of a specific instance? Has your friendship with “x” changed how you feel about these kinds of comments/actions? How?
50. How do you think you would be different if you had never met “x”?
51. What do you wish were different about your relationship with “x”?
52. Do you feel that your friendship with “x” is fairly equal? Do you call each other/plan events pretty equally?
53. Is there anything else you would like to add? Any important aspects of the relationship that I failed to ask about?