

Support Within Reach Code of Ethics

Professional Capacity

- Demonstrate basic competency by completing initial training and engaging in ongoing professional development.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the root causes of sexual violence.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of the trauma of sexual violence and the complexity of this effect on victims/survivors and of the healing process.
- Recognize both capabilities and limitations in one's own expertise.
- Understand and model the importance of personal wellness and practice self care.
- Promote and practice mutual support in relationships with colleagues and staff.

Professional Integrity

- Maintain a victim-centered approach to providing services.
- Maintain and model ethical and appropriate boundaries.
- Support victims/survivors self-determination and self efficacy as they share and disclose their experiences and examine their options.
- Listen generously and respect victim/survivor's decision-making.
- Respect the roles of the other disciplines you partner with in the community.

Professional Responsibility

- Maintain current knowledge of community resources and provide appropriate referrals.
- Maintain current knowledge of victims' rights.
- Maintain current knowledge of other disciplines' roles and responsibilities (e.g. criminal justice system, medical forensic examiners, etc.).
- Challenge harmful practices of other advocates and allied professionals.
- Clarify the role of the advocate to victims/survivors and other professionals you work with.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to real and ascribed differences in power between advocates and those seeking services.
- Know and comply with all laws, standards, rules and regulations that apply.
- Ensure victim/survivor privacy and confidentiality by understanding and maintaining compliance with Minnesota's statute defining privileged communication between sexual assault advocates and victims/survivors.

Professional Regard for All Victims/Survivors

- Maintain practice of nondiscrimination on the basis of race/ethnicity, language, nationality, sex/gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, social class, economic status, education, marital status, religious affiliation, immigration status, or HIV status.
- Actively examine one's history, belief systems, values, needs, and limitations and their effect on providing advocacy.
- Believe the victims/survivors who seek advocacy from you and advocate on that basis.

- Maintain respectful and professional boundaries with those seeking your services during and after professional relationships.

Advocates as Social Change Agents

- Maintain, practice, and articulate a commitment to social justice.
- Work actively towards legislation, policy, and social change.
- Work to challenge and change harmful social norms.
- Work to challenge and change harmful system practices.
- Engage in creative and critical thinking to address systemic barriers to justice for victims/survivors of sexual violence.

X

Staff/Volunteer Signature

X

Witness Signature

Witness: Staff – Executive Director
Volunteer – Volunteer Manager
Executive Director – Board Chair