

Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services is a non-profit organization founded in 1979 that has adopted the NDVSAC Ethical Guidelines and Core Values and operates with the following philosophies:

We believe all individuals have a right to emotional, financial and physical safety.

We oppose the use of threats, intimidation and violence to create and maintain control.

We believe victims of violence have the right to confidentiality. We provide services that are free and confidential.

We are committed to offering services with the highest level of dignity and respect, absent of discrimination regardless race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical or cognitive ability, marital status, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, health status, HIV status, employment status, veteran status, immigration status or physical appearance.

We value individual's ability to make their own choices and support their journey to self-sufficiency. We provide non-judgmental services and provide information to support empowerment of individuals to free them from violence.

We are committed to an organizational structure that reflects diversity, mutual respect for individual differences, equality, accessibility, participatory decision-making, and collective responsibility among members of the board, paid staff, volunteers and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, human trafficking, sexual assault and stalking.

We believe that oppression is the root of violence and we oppose it in all its forms including, but not limited to racism, classism, ableism, sexism, ageism, ethnocentrism, and heterosexism.

We believe that violence will end only when individuals, institutions, and society as a whole work together to demand an end to abuse.

We believe abusers must be held accountable for their actions. We believe violence is a public issue, not just a private matter. We believe individuals, institutions, and society as a whole must take responsibility for eliminating violence.