

OBSERVER CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

In our desire to familiarize the community with our services, we invite those interested in our programming to sit in on our battering intervention groups. We hope that this activity will help increase [Program Name] accountability to battered women in our community and increase the public's knowledge of the unique dynamics involved in a battering intervention program.

As an observer of an [Program Name] group and signer of this Agreement, I agree to strictly hold in confidence the identities of any service participants I encounter, anyone to whom they may refer, be related to, or with whom they work, etc. I similarly agree to hold in confidence any statements, references, or characterizations of service participants that, in repeating, might identify them or others.

There is legal precedent for a therapists "duty to protect" potential victims of their service participants violence. For example, Tarasoff v. The Regents of the University of California mandated that therapists must act to protect a readily identifiable and foreseeable victim of danger when a specific threat of violence toward that victim is made by their client.

In signing this agreement, I agree that any and all decisions regarding the violation of confidentiality of [Program Name] service participants, including "duty to protect", are the exclusive province of [Program Name] staff. I agree that [Program Name] staff has the exclusive and non-negotiable right to refuse my access to, or to require me to leave or discontinue participation in, any or all program activities without explanation. I agree to not initiate or reciprocate any contact with service participants of [Program Name] outside of programming activities (criminal justice system employees excluded where appropriate) unless previously arranged with [Program Name] staff.

In signing I agree to abide by the spirit and specifics of this Agreement. Further, in signing this agreement I also acknowledge my understanding of and agree to abide by the [Program Name] guidelines for group observers/participants.

PRINT Your Name Here: _____

PRINT Your Affiliation Here: _____

Observer Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Observer Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

GUIDELINES FOR GROUP OBSERVERS

The staff of the [Program Name] Program welcomes you to this group experience and appreciate the time and effort you are taking to be here as well as the commitment you have to justice for battered women and children. Below are guidelines we have for observers in group. Please resolve any questions you have regarding these guidelines with [Program Name] staff before you enter group.

1. You will be required to sign an "Observer Confidentiality Agreement" before you enter the group.
2. You will be sitting in the group circle with group members. You will not be permitted to do any writing while in group, or take any writing, audio taping or videotaping materials into the group room without permission from [Program Name] staff.
3. You are expected to remain in group for the entire time that it meets. We ask that you not leave group for any purpose other than to go to the restroom. If you are joining the [Program Name] Team Meeting you are expected to remain in that meeting until it concludes.
4. You will introduce yourself by your FIRST NAME ONLY, and briefly explain why you are observing group.
5. Please refrain from participating in group discussions. If a group member attempts to engage you in discussion a staff member will intervene, or you will tell that person you have been instructed by staff not to engage in discussion. If you recognize someone who is in the group, please notify staff after the group.
6. You are welcome to participate in the opening or closing group observance, which may include holding hands in the circle with group members, if you wish. If you do not wish to do so, please remain seated until the closing observance is completed. When group has ended please go immediately to the area that the staff directed you to. Staff will join you as soon as possible.
7. After group we would like to briefly discuss your perceptions, reactions and any questions you have regarding your group experience. You may be asked to fill out a brief questionnaire regarding your observations of the group.