DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Self-Sufficiency Caseworkers

DHS SELF-SUFFICIENCY DEFINES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS:

“Domestic Violence” means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family members, intimate partners, or household members:

- Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing physical injury or emotional, mental or verbal abuse
- Intentionally, knowingly or recklessly placing another in fear of imminent serious physical injury
- Committing sexual abuse in any degree as defined in ORS 163.415, 163.425 and 163.427
- Using coercive or controlling behavior

CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS

By statute, DHS Self-Sufficiency caseworkers must keep DV survivor information confidential. DHS Self-Sufficiency caseworkers cannot share DV information, even with DHS Child Welfare caseworker, unless the DV survivor voluntarily agrees to sign an Authorization for Use and Disclosure of Information Form, DHS 2099.

IMPLICIT BIAS

Implicit bias refers to the unconscious association people make between groups of people and stereotypes about those groups. Being aware of implicit bias is especially important when co-located domestic violence advocates are working in different organizational cultures and when working with populations that are represented by people from diverse age groups, race, gender, physical and mental ability, and the LGBTQ community.

For more information, refer to:
https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/research
www.understandingprejudice.org

Regional and National Websites

1. American Bar Association: https://www.americanbar.org/aba.html
2. CDC-Coping with stress: https://www.cdc.gov/features/copingwithstress/index.html
3. David Mandel’s online training: http://endingviolence.com/
4. Futures without Violence: https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/
5. Legal Momentum: https://www.legalmomentum.org/
16. Prevention Institute, Preventing Violence: https://www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/preventing-violence
17. Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody: https://rcdvcpc.org/
20. VAWAnet: http://vawnet.org/
Tips for Building and Maintaining Healthy Relationships with Co-located DV Advocates

**Develop a Leadership Team** that meets regularly to discuss and solve any problems that may arise in this collaborative relationship as well as celebrate successes of the relationship. The Leadership Team would be comprised of supervisory and line staff representing both the DHS Child Welfare or Self-Sufficiency Program and the non-profit domestic violence advocacy organization.

**Establish a local Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that:**
- Distinguishes the roles and responsibilities of co-located domestic violence advocates from DHS caseworkers and any other service providers that work in the DHS office
- Develops a comprehensive orientation for all members of the co-located domestic violence advocacy program in partnership with the DHS Child Welfare and/or Self-Sufficiency Program
- Creates an organizational structure for the co-located domestic violence advocacy program in partnership with the DHS Child Welfare and/or Self-Sufficiency Program
- Offers domestic violence training for DHS Child Welfare and/or Self-Sufficiency caseworkers
- Identifies practices to ensure privacy and security for client files and data
- Clarifies the attendance and leave policies for the co-located domestic violence advocates
- Develops a referral process to the co-located domestic violence advocates in partnership with the DHS Child Welfare and/or Self-Sufficiency Program
- Problem solves with DHS Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency caseworkers on how to best support domestic violence survivors in navigating DHS Child Welfare and/or Self-Sufficiency procedures
- Participates in DHS Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency caseworkers’ case planning
- Participates in DHS Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency home visits as requested

**Strengthen Collaborations**
Collaboration requires a group of people with diverse skills, experience and knowledge to commit to working towards a shared vision. Collaboration can:
- Open lines of communication
- Improve relationships
- Increase trust, knowledge and resources
- Break down barriers that inhibit collaboration

**Trauma-Informed Care**
Domestic violence survivors, and their children, experience trauma and need to be supported by a system that incorporates trauma informed care principles into their procedures, practices and policies. A fundamental element of implementing a trauma-informed care framework is the understanding of the impact of historical trauma and oppression. The basis for incorporating a trauma informed care model include the following elements:
- Creating a safe space, physically, emotionally, that is transparent, predictable and has clear and consistent boundaries
- Valuing the individual through relationship, compassion, respect, acceptance, non-judgement and collaboration
- Restoring power by promoting choice, empowerment, strengths and skill building

**State Websites**
2. Child Welfare: Practices for Cases with Domestic Violence: [https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/ce9200.pdf](https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/ce9200.pdf)
3. Child Welfare Tools: [http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/cw_stafftools.htm](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/cw_stafftools.htm)
4. Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence: [www.ocadsv.org](http://www.ocadsv.org)
6. Oregon Department of Human Services Domestic Violence Programs: [http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ABUSE/DOMESTIC/Pages/resources.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ABUSE/DOMESTIC/Pages/resources.aspx)
7. Oregon Law Help: [www.oregonlawhelp.org](http://www.oregonlawhelp.org)
8. Oregon Law Center: [http://www.oregonlawcenter.org](http://www.oregonlawcenter.org)
10. Oregon Self-sufficiency Tools Page: [http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/dv/tools.htm#presentations](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/dv/tools.htm#presentations)