

# Utah Peer Support Specialist Code of Ethics

*The following principles will guide Peer Support Specialist in their various roles, relationships, and levels of responsibility in which they function professionally.*

1. The primary role of the Peer Support Specialist is to help individuals achieve their own needs, wants, and goals. Peer Support Specialists will be guided by the principle of self-determination for all.
2. Peer Support Specialists will maintain high standards of personal conduct. Peer Support Specialists will also conduct themselves in a manner that fosters his or her own recovery.
3. Peer Support Specialists will appropriately share with the people they serve, peers and colleagues, their recovery stories from mental illness, co-occurring disorders, and substance abuse and will likewise be able to identify and describe the supports that promote his or her recovery.
4. Peer Support Specialists should not dictate their idea of recovery to those they serve, but should assist them in determining their own definition of recovery.
5. Peer Support Specialists will, at all times, respect the rights and dignity of those they serve.
6. Peer Support Specialists will never intimidate, threaten, harass, use undue influence, physical force or verbal abuse, or make unwarranted promises of benefits to the individuals they serve.
7. Peer Support Specialists will not practice, condone, facilitate or collaborate in any form of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, mental or physical disability, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition or state.
8. Peer Support Specialists will promote self-direction and decision making for those they serve.
9. Peer Support Specialists will strictly respect the privacy and confidentiality of those they serve.
10. Peer Support Specialists will advocate for the full integration of individuals into the communities of their choice and will promote the inherent value of these individuals to those communities.
11. Peer Support Specialists will be directed by the knowledge that all individuals have the right to live in the least restrictive and least intrusive environment.
12. Peer Support Specialists will not enter into dual relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of those they serve.
13. Peer Support Specialists will never engage in sexual/intimate activities with those they serve.
14. Peer Support Specialists will not abuse substances under any circumstance.
15. Peer Support Specialists will keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery, and openly share this knowledge with their colleagues.
16. Peer Support Specialists will not accept gifts of significant value from those they serve.