

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. A Peer Support Specialist will:
 - maintain high standards of personal conduct. Peer Support Specialists will also conduct themselves in a manner that fosters his or her own recovery.
 - 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.
 - at all times, respect the rights and dignity of those they serve.
 - promote self-direction and decision making for those they serve.
 - strictly respect the privacy and confidentiality of those they serve.
 - 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.
 - be directed by the knowledge that all individuals have the right to live in the least restrictive and least intrusive environment.
 - keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery, and openly share this knowledge with their colleagues.
3. 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.
4. 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.
 - engage in sexual/intimate activities with those they serve.
5. 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.
 - enter into dual relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of those they serve.
 - abuse substances under any circumstance.
 - accept gifts of significant value from those they serve.