

***CODE of PROFESSIONAL ETHICS for
SUMMIT COUNTY VICTIM ADVOCATES***

This Code will govern the conduct of Summit County Victim Advocates:

1. Respect the client's rights to privacy and confidentiality, subject only to laws or regulations requiring disclosure of information to appropriate other sources.
2. Respond compassionately to each client with personalized services.
3. Accept the client's statement of events as it is told, withholding opinion or judgment, whether or not a suspected offender has been identified, arrested, convicted, or acquitted.
4. Provide services to every client without attributing blame, no matter what the client's conduct was at the time of the victimization or at another stage of the client's life.
5. Promptly refer a client to another qualified Victim Advocate should that client's needs conflict with another's, prior to acting in regard to that individual.
6. Refrain from discriminating against any victim, employee, colleague, allied professional, or member of the public on the basis of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, race, national origin, religious belief, or sexual orientation.
7. Clearly distinguish in public statements representing one's personal views from positions adopted by organizations for which she or he works or is a member.
8. Abstain from using his or her official position to secure gifts, monetary rewards, or special privileges or advantages.
9. Maintain high personal and professional standards in the capacity of a service provider and seek and maintain a proficiency in the delivery of services to clients.
10. Report to competent authorities any conflict of interest that prevents oneself from being able to provide competent services to a client, or to work cooperatively with colleagues or allied professionals, or to be impartial in the treatment of any client.