



CODE OF ETHICS

1. Our primary obligation and accountability is to the women and children we serve.
2. We will conduct ourselves with honesty, integrity, fairness and respect in all our interactions.
3. We are committed to non-violence and will be proactive in our dedication to the prevention and elimination of violence against women and children in all the services we provide and all the activities in which we engage.
4. We will ensure that outside interests do not jeopardize our judgments, independence, competence or our role as advocates.
5. We will maintain confidentiality of all acquired information with the exception of those items covered in policy.
6. We will deal with all situations of child abuse with the full knowledge of the mother wherever possible.
7. We will act in a manner so as to actively promote the safety and well-being of women and children as our first priority.
8. We will promote the empowerment of women.
9. We will respect and support each woman's right to self determination and autonomy.
10. We will provide service to all women and children regardless of social status, racial, cultural or religious beliefs, class, sexual orientation, ability and health status without prejudice or discrimination.
11. We will ensure that our own personal belief systems do not interfere with the right of women to make their own choices.
12. We will not exploit relationships with clients or co-workers for personal gain or the gain of friends, relatives or associates.
13. We will be responsible for our own needs and self care.
14. We acknowledge and work towards alleviating the power imbalances that exist between and within boards, staff, volunteers, and the women and children we serve, and we commit to the equality of those relationships.
15. We are committed to working from a feminist perspective that starts with our own and other women's experiences as a basis for working towards ending women's oppression.

The Society's Code of Ethics will be adhered to by all Board members, staff and volunteers and will be reviewed annually by all Board members, staff and volunteers respectively.