

**Worksheet 2.2**

**Self-Awareness Inventory\***

The following five questions will help you evaluate your own values, attitudes, and beliefs. For each question, circle 1 if you strongly disagree, 5 if you strongly agree, or 2, 3, or 4 for points along the continuum.

Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers. This is an inventory designed to get you thinking about your values, attitudes, and beliefs so that you may better serve your clients.

- 1. Members of a helping profession such as victim assistance should refrain from getting personally involved with victims they work with.**

Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

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- 2. A higher spiritual power should guide our behavior and thinking.**

Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

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- 3. Women are rarely violent.**

Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

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- 4. The needs of victims must sometimes override a supervisor's directive.**

Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

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- 5. Culture and race are not factors in a professional helping relationship. As human beings, we are more similar than different.**

Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

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\* This inventory was adapted from the inventory in *Victim Assistance Online (VAT Online)* at <https://www.ovcttac.gov/vatonline>.

## Worksheet 2.3

### Domestic Violence Scenario

Patrice is the 24-year-old mother of three children, ages 4, 2, and 4 months. She is married to Zeke, the father of her baby and the 2-year-old. Zeke drinks heavily and has been abusing Patrice for at least a year. During this time, law enforcement has been to the home repeatedly for domestic violence incidents, but Zeke has been arrested only a couple of times. Three weeks ago, law enforcement arrested Zeke and alerted the local human services agency with concerns about the children. Zeke was able to post bail and was out of jail 2 days later. He is currently staying with his brother and his brother's wife, who live about 4 miles down the road. A caseworker from child protective services is in the process of assessing the risks of harm and safety factors for the children. Patrice has been talking with a victim assistance provider with the local domestic violence program.

Last evening Zeke nearly strangled Patrice and threatened to kill her and the children if she told anyone. This morning Patrice called the victim assistance provider with the domestic violence program to tell her about Zeke's threats. Patrice is planning to leave with the children as soon as she can make all the arrangements. She knows she must wait for the right opportunity to leave. She also tells the victim assistance provider that she does not want all this to go to court. It will only make the situation worse.

## Worksheet 3.1

### Is It Ethical?

#### Scenario 1

Jo, a woman who is trying to leave her violent husband, asks Betty, the victim assistance provider at a local domestic violence shelter, to help her find a place to stay for a while. The shelter has been filled to capacity the past 2 weeks. Betty's friend has a vacant garage apartment. After checking with her friend, Betty offers the apartment as a safe place for Jo and her two young children to stay until everything is settled.

#### Scenario 2

Marsha, who is a victim assistance provider, is working with Jean, a stalking victim who wants to sue the employer of the man who stalked her. The stalker accessed Jean's financial records through the database at his place of employment. Marsha advises Jean, "Getting involved in a stressful lawsuit isn't a good idea right now. You really need to focus on your recovery."

#### Scenario 3

Kevin, a victim assistance provider, has been working with Heidi for a couple months. She recently moved to a different town to get away from her abusive boyfriend, and she has asked Kevin not to share her new address and phone number with anyone. One day she calls Kevin; she is distraught and reluctantly discloses that she is thinking about suicide, but she begs him not to tell anyone. He explains that he is obligated to report someone who is suicidal and will give her contact information to law enforcement.

#### Scenario 4

Rebecca, a white victim assistance provider who majored in psychology in college, realizes that an African-American victim she is working with, Shauna, has a substance abuse problem. Shauna is just starting to open up to Rebecca after several weeks of silence. When Rebecca suggests that Shauna see a substance abuse counselor or check out a 12-step program, Shauna accuses Rebecca of trying to get rid of her because she is black. Rebecca denies the accusation and assures Shauna that she will continue working with her. Rebecca figures that she has had enough experience to help Shauna with her substance abuse problem.

#### Scenario 5

Jeff, who works long hours as a victim assistance provider at a law enforcement agency, regularly takes records home and finishes up his documentation at night. After he eats dinner with his wife and two adolescent daughters, Jeff spreads his work on the kitchen table and puts in a couple more hours.

## Worksheet 5.1

### The Decisionmaking Process

1. Assess the facts. Review all relevant documents and legislation. Verify all sources of information.
2. Identify relevant standards and practical considerations. What ethical standards and corresponding practical considerations are in conflict?
3. Brainstorm at least three (preferably more than five) courses of action and consequences of each.
4. Consult your peers or your supervisor.
5. Choose the best option and act.
6. Evaluate: how can this situation be avoided in the future?

# **NVASC Standards for Victim Assistance Programs and Providers**

Developed by the National Victim Assistance Standards Consortium (NVASC)

## **SECTION I: Scope of Services**

**ETHICAL STANDARD 1.1:** The victim assistance provider understands his or her legal responsibilities, limitations, and the implications of his/her actions within the service delivery setting, and performs duties in accord with laws, regulations, policies, and legislated rights of persons served.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 1.2:** The victim assistance provider accurately represents his or her professional title, qualifications, and/or credentials in relationships with persons served and in public advertising.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 1.3:** The victim assistance provider maintains a high standard of professional conduct.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 1.4:** The victim assistance provider achieves and maintains a high level of professional competence.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 1.5:** The victim assistance provider who provides a service for a fee informs a person served about the fee at the initial session or meeting.

## **SECTION II: Coordinating within the Community**

**ETHICAL STANDARD 2.1:** The victim assistance provider conducts relationships with colleagues and other professionals in such a way as to promote mutual respect, confidence, and improvement of services.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 2.2:** The victim assistance provider shares knowledge and encourages proficiency in victim assistance among colleagues and other professionals.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 2.3:** The victim assistance provider serves the public interest by contributing to the improvement of systems that impact victims of crime.

## **SECTION III: Direct Services**

**ETHICAL STANDARD 3.1:** The victim assistance provider respects and attempts to protect the victim's civil rights.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 3.2:** The victim assistance provider recognizes the interests of the person served as a primary responsibility.

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**ETHICAL STANDARD 3.3:** The victim assistance provider refrains from behaviors that communicate victim blame, suspicion regarding victim accounts of the crime, condemnation for past behavior, or other judgmental, anti-victim sentiments.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 3.4:** The victim assistance provider respects the victim's right to self-determination.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 3.5:** The victim assistance provider preserves the confidentiality of information provided by the person served or acquired from other sources before, during, and after the course of the professional relationship.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 3.6:** The victim assistance provider avoids conflicts of interest and discloses any possible conflict to the program or person served as well as to prospective programs or persons served.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 3.7:** The victim assistance provider terminates a professional relationship with a victim when the victim is not likely to benefit from continued services.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 3.8:** The victim assistance provider does not engage in personal relationships with persons served which exploit professional trust or could impair the victim assistance provider's objectivity and professional judgment.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 3.9:** The victim assistance provider does not discriminate against a victim or another staff member on the basis of race/ethnicity, language, sex/gender, age, sexual orientation, (dis)ability, social class, economic status, education, marital status, religious affiliation, residency, or HIV status.

**ETHICAL STANDARD 3.10:** The victim assistance provider furnishes opportunities for colleague victim assistance providers to seek appropriate services when traumatized by a criminal event or client interaction.

## **SECTION IV: Administration and Evaluation**

**ETHICAL STANDARD 4.1:** The victim assistance provider reports to appropriate authorities the conduct of any colleague or other professional (including self) that constitutes mistreatment of a person served or brings the profession into dishonor.

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