

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CUSTODIANS OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

(~~June 10, 2013~~) Revised _____, 2016

Introduction

~~(The Protection of People with Special Needs Act (“the Act”) establishes the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (“Justice Center”) and requires that this Code of Conduct be read and signed by anyone who will have regular and substantial contact with any person who is receiving services or supports from facilities or providers covered by the Act.~~

~~The Code of Conduct is not intended to provide a detailed list of what to do in every aspect of your work. Instead it represents a framework that will help custodians determine how to help people with special needs live self-directed, meaningful lives in their communities, free from abuse and neglect, and protected from harm.)~~

~~(You must abide by the following Code of Conduct provisions:)~~

The Code of Conduct, as set forth in the Code of Conduct itself, sets forth a framework intended to assist impacted employees to help people with special needs “live self-directed, meaningful lives in their communities, free from abuse and neglect, and protected from harm,” in addition to the specific guidance provided by the agency’s policies and training.

Similarly, the Notice to Mandated Reporters contains guidance designed to assist mandated reporters, and is intended to provide a summary of reporting obligations for mandated reporters. It is not intended to supplement or in any way add to the reporting obligations provided by law, rule, or regulation.

As provided by law, rule, or regulation, only custodians who have or will have regular and direct contact with vulnerable persons receiving services or support from facilities or providers covered by the *Justice Center Act* must sign that they have read and understand the Code of Conduct.

The framework provides:

1. Person-Centered Approach

My primary duty is to the people who receive supports and services from this organization. I acknowledge that each person of suitable age must have the opportunity to direct his or her own life, honoring, where (~~appropriate~~) **consistent with agency policy**, their right to assume risk in a safe manner, and recognizing each person’s potential for lifelong learning and growth. I understand that my

job will require flexibility, creativity and commitment. Whenever (~~appropriate~~) **consistent with agency policy**, I will work to support the individual's preferences and interests.

2. Physical, Emotional and Personal Well-being

I will promote the physical, emotional and personal well-being of any person who receives services and supports from this organization, including their protection from abuse and neglect and reducing their risk of harm **to others and themselves**. (~~I will immediately report any situation in which any person receiving services or supports is experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect.~~)

3. Respect, Dignity and Choice

I will respect the dignity and individuality of any person who receives services and supports from this organization and honor their choices and preferences whenever possible and (~~appropriate~~) **consistent with agency policy**. I will help people receiving supports and services use the opportunities and resources available to all in the community, whenever possible and (~~appropriate~~) **consistent with agency policy**.

4. Self-Determination

I will help people receiving supports and services realize their rights and responsibilities, and, as (~~appropriate~~) **consistent with agency policy**, make informed decisions and understand their options related to their physical health and emotional well-being.

5. Relationships

I will help people who receive services and supports from this organization maintain or develop healthy relationships with family and friends. I will support them in making informed choices about safely expressing their sexuality and other preferences, whenever possible and (~~appropriate~~) **consistent with agency policy**.

6. Advocacy

I will advocate for justice, inclusion and community participation with, or on behalf of, any person who receives services and supports from this organization, as (~~appropriate~~) **consistent with agency policy**. I will promote justice, fairness and equality, and respect their human, civil and legal rights.

7. Personal Health Information and Confidentiality

I understand that persons served by my organization have the right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to their personal health information and I will protect this information from unauthorized use or disclosure, except as required or permitted by law.

8. Non-Discrimination

I will not discriminate against people receiving services and supports or colleagues based on race, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, economic condition or disability.

9. Integrity, Responsibility and Professional Competency

I will reinforce the values of this organization when it does not compromise the **well(-)being** of any person who receives services and supports. I will maintain my skills and competency through continued learning, including all training provided by this organization. I will actively seek advice and guidance of others whenever I am uncertain about an appropriate course of action. I will not misrepresent my professional qualifications or affiliations. I will demonstrate model behavior to all, including persons receiving services and supports.

10. Reporting Requirement

As a mandated reporter, I acknowledge my legal obligation **under Social Services Law § 491, as may be amended from time to time or superseded**, to report all allegations of reportable incidents immediately upon discovery to the Justice Center's Vulnerable Persons' Central Register by calling 1-855-373-2122.

(~~PLEDGE TO ABIDE BY THE~~) CODE OF CONDUCT¹ ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR CUSTODIANS OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

I pledge to prevent abuse, neglect, or harm toward any person with special needs **consistent with agency policy. In addition, to the extent I am required to report abuse, neglect, or harm of any person with special needs by law, rule, or regulation, I agree to abide by the law, rule, or regulation.** If I learn of, or witness, any incident of abuse, neglect or harm toward any person with special needs, I will offer immediate assistance, ~~(and then)~~ notify emergency personnel, including 9-1-1, ~~(where appropriate,)~~ and inform the management of this organization, **consistent with agency policy.** ~~(I pledge also to report the incident to the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs.)~~

I acknowledge that I have read and that I understand the Code of Conduct.

~~(I agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.)~~

Signature

Print Name

Date

Program: Department:

Facility/Provider Organization:

¹ No aspect of this Code of Conduct is in any way intended to interfere, abridge, or infringe upon the rights provided by the *Taylor Law*.