

FRIENDS OF RECOVERY-VT
CODE OF ETHICS

A. CONDUCT

1. Maintain high standards of conduct in programs designed, implemented or operated by people in recovery.
2. Treat each other with dignity and respect.
3. Do not exploit relationships with others for personal gain.
4. Be dedicated and loyal to programs supporting recovery.
5. Do not see yourself as having power or control over another.
6. Be honest with yourself and others
7. Be impartial at all times.
8. Work to resist gossip, hearsay and rumors.
9. Seek to identify and resolve conflicts with others rather than ignore or dismiss them.
10. Remember that in the eyes of the general public you represent people in recovery at all times and that your actions dictate how the community sees the recovery movement.

B. RESPONSIBILITY TO PEOPLE IN RECOVERY

1. Put the needs of the people first in all actions and situations.
2. Act to prevent actions that are harmful or discriminatory to any individual or group.
3. Do not take advantage of others for personal gain.
4. Under no circumstances do not sexually exploit or harass individuals.
5. Do not “do for” others, instead “do with” or assist others.
6. Allow others to make their own decisions and choices in relations to their own lives.
7. Safeguard the interests and rights of others.
8. Do not act in any way that violates the civil, legal, or ethical rights of others.
9. Maintain confidentiality and privacy of others.
10. Treat others with respect, fairness and honesty.
11. Accept others for who they are, where they are and what they are, regardless of personal opinions.
12. Do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, sex, height, weight, physical or mental characteristics, sexual orientation, or marital status.

C. RESPONSIBILITY TO THE ORGANIZATION

1. Uphold the concepts, principles and practices of programs that support recovery.
2. Work to prevent discrimination, injustice and violation, by or within the organization.
3. Use its power, resources and assets only in the pursuit of improving the lives of consumers.
4. Confront the alcohol and substance abuse system and the community to advocate for better treatment, prevention and recovery services.
5. Protect individuals from unethical conduct by individuals and/or the substance abuse system.
6. Work together as a group.
7. Work to represent all people in recovery, especially those who feel they have no voice.
8. Be responsible to the people of the organization.
9. Be accountable for all actions taken by the organization or representatives of it.
10. Maintain credibility.
11. Do not compromise the concept and values of the recovery movement.
12. Maintain conditions, rules and expectations for participation in the organization to protect the rights of the people.
13. Do not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, sex, height, weight, physical or mental characteristics, sexual orientation, or marital status.

D. RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COMMUNITY

1. To combat the stigma of addiction within society, through education, advocacy and example.
2. Advocate for changes in the system and with legislators to improve conditions in society and to promote social justice for individuals with alcohol and substance abuse problems.
3. Remember that consumer-run programs are generally funded by public money and are responsible to use those funds to serve the people.