

July 2018 - In This Issue:

Language Access for Deaf Survivors

In the News

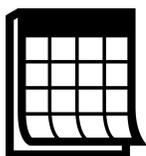
Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

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Monthly Newsletter

Vera Center on Victimization + Safety



Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

2018 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series

It's My Prerogative: Consent and Healthy Sexuality for People with Disabilities

August 21, 2018
2-3:30 pm ET

This webinar will review the need for sexuality education for people with disabilities, issues around consent to sex for people with disabilities, how to talk to people with disabilities about consent, and resources for discussing sexuality with people with disabilities with the ultimate goal of promoting safe and autonomous sexual relationships.

Language Access for Deaf Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence



By: Ashley Brompton, Program Associate

Deaf people are 1.5 times more likely to be victims of relationship violence - including sexual harassment, sexual assault, psychological abuse and physical abuse in their lifetime than their hearing counterparts. Yet, many Deaf survivors are shut off from victim services and supports that are ill-equipped to respond to their unique needs. For instance, many Deaf and hard of hearing people identify as members of a distinct cultural group in the United States. Like any culture, Deaf culture in the U.S. is defined by its unique language, values, behavioral norms, and traditions. Understanding and respecting Deaf culture is an important first step to providing effective intervention services in the aftermath of domestic or sexual violence. It is also essential that domestic and sexual violence programs are equipped to provide effective communication access to Deaf survivors. For many Deaf survivors, American Sign Language (ASL), not English, is their first language and, perhaps, their only language. Because ASL

[Register here.](#)

Registration closes one week prior to the webinar date for all of our webinars.

Save the Dates for the 2018 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series!

- August 21, 2018
- September 18, 2018

A Note From CVS: For those of you who have been attending our End Abuse webinars in 2018, we apologize for the technical difficulties you may have experienced. We are aware of the issue and are exploring solutions to continue our dedication to accessible webinars while also creating a smoother user experience. If you have specific questions or concerns about the webinars, please email Ashley Brompton at abrompton@vera.org.

Don't forget - you can view all of our archived [webinars](#) on our End Abuse of People with Disabilities website.



Share Your Ideas!

Do you have ideas about issues we could highlight in our monthly newsletter, topics for our monthly webinar series, or information about new initiatives that seek justice for people with disabilities? We want your feedback! Take advantage of this feature in our

does not have a written or vocal component, a Deaf survivor seeking services will benefit most from communication via ASL. Understanding these unique dynamics and many more can help victim services provide Deaf Survivors with the services and supports that could help them safely flee from abuse, heal from trauma, and seek justice after they have been harmed.

To make sure that they are adequately serving the needs of Deaf survivors, victim service organizations can:

- Conducting an access review of their organizations to identify areas of improvement and developing improvement plans;
- Partnering with Deaf organizations to ensure a fundamental understanding of Deaf culture and the language access needs of Deaf people;
- Developing a language access plan;
- Forming relationships with local American Sign Language interpreters with an understanding of domestic violence and sexual assault; and
- Providing targeted outreach to the Deaf community.

Learn more about the Deaf community, Deaf culture, and communication access by reading Vera's "Culture, Language and Access: Key Considerations for Serving Deaf Survivors" which you can download from our [website](#).



Profile in Collaboration

In Jacksonville, Florida, the Independent Living Resource Center; Hubbard House, a domestic violence service provider; the City of Jacksonville; and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) have been working together to identify and solve gaps in services to victims of domestic violence who are Deaf/deaf, hard of hearing, or who have disabilities. The director of the project, Angela McKinley, was recently nominated for a county-wide victim's advocate award by the JSO Assistant Chief Scott Dingee, and won! Congrats to Angie and the collaboration for their inspiring relationship - and its positive impact on survivors.

newsletter and submit your ideas thoughts and feedback by emailing cvs@vera.org.



Center on Victimization and Safety | Vera Institute of Justice
cvs@vera.org
212.376.3096
endabusepwd.org

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Vera Institute of Justice, 233 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10279

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