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Upcoming Webinars and Trainings

The 2018 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series has Ended.

Please look for information about our 2019 End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series coming soon!

A Note From CVS: We apologize for the technical difficulties you may have experienced in our webinars. 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

Consent to Sex for People with Disabilities

By: Ashley Brompton, Program Associate

People with disabilities are more likely to face sexual violence than those without disabilities. For example, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are 7 times more likely to be abused, according to an NPR investigative report. Unfortunately, too often, the response to this increased risk is to deny people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the ability to engage in sexual relationships. In fact, many, if not most, state laws on sexual assault explicitly define people with "mental impairment" as incapable of giving consent to sex.

While it is important to address the epidemic of violence against people with disabilities, it is equally vital to recognize that they have the right to healthy sexual relationships.

In order to strike a balance between autonomy and safety moving forward, we need to:

- Educate law makers, advocates, and others about the need for sexual autonomy as well as safety for people with disabilities;
- Ensure that people with disabilities are receiving education about healthy relationships and sexuality so they are able to meaningful consent should they so choose; and
- Include people with disabilities in future discussions about consent to ensure that their

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

needs are adequately addressed.

The Center on Victimization and Safety is working to create and curate resources on consent and people with disabilities to ensure that practitioners, advocates, and people with disabilities have information that they need to ensure that the balance is struck between autonomy and safety.

For more information, please watch our recent webinar, [It's My Prerogative: Consent and Healthy Sexuality for People with Disabilities](#).



In the News

A recent article outlined highlights the challenges that domestic violence shelters are not accessible to victims with disabilities. It also stresses the need for shelters to be accessible so that all survivors of domestic violence, including those with disabilities, can receive services. [Read the article on the AZ Central website](#).

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