

“Preserving the Right to Parent: Custody Issues for Survivors with Disabilities”

End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Discussion Guide

Presenter: Robyn Powell, MA, JD

This guide is an invitation to have a discussion about the content discussed in the *End Abuse of People with Disabilities* webinar to help you engage with the material. If you have questions or concerns, please email Ashley Brompton at abrompton@vera.org.

A Note on Self-Care

We recognize that many of the topics discussed in our webinars, and the accompanying discussion guides, may be difficult and/or triggering. We ask you to practice self-care. Here are some suggestions for practicing self-care when watching *End Abuse of People with Disabilities* webinars or using the discussion guides.

- Be mindful of trigger or content warnings during webinars, as well as your body’s own reactions. Center yourself and your needs. Do whatever you need to do to feel comfortable and safe.
- If you need to take a break, allow yourself to do so. The webinar can be paused and re-started as needed.
- Plan out ways to decompress and regroup after consuming heavy content.
- Identify supports in your community or organization that you can reach out to for assistance as needed.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think there have been such restrictions on a person with a disabilities’ right to parent? What sort of attitudes contributed to these restrictions?
2. How might someone who is committing dv against a pwd use the assumptions about a person with a disability as a power and control tactics?

3. The presenter talked about ways to connect parents with services in their community. What services are available in your community that you could connect parents with disabilities to?

4. During the webinar, the presenter discussed some legal rights that parents with disabilities have. Did any of these surprise you? If so, why?

5. Has your organization worked with a survivor with a disability before? If so, what unique challenges did they face? After this webinar, would you do anything differently in advocating for them?