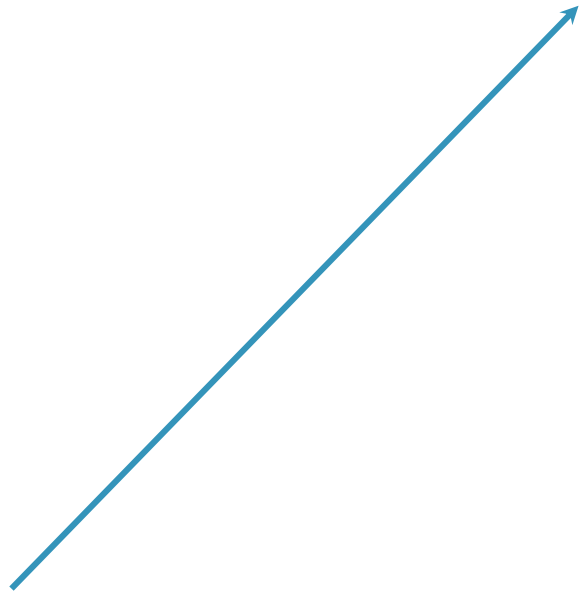


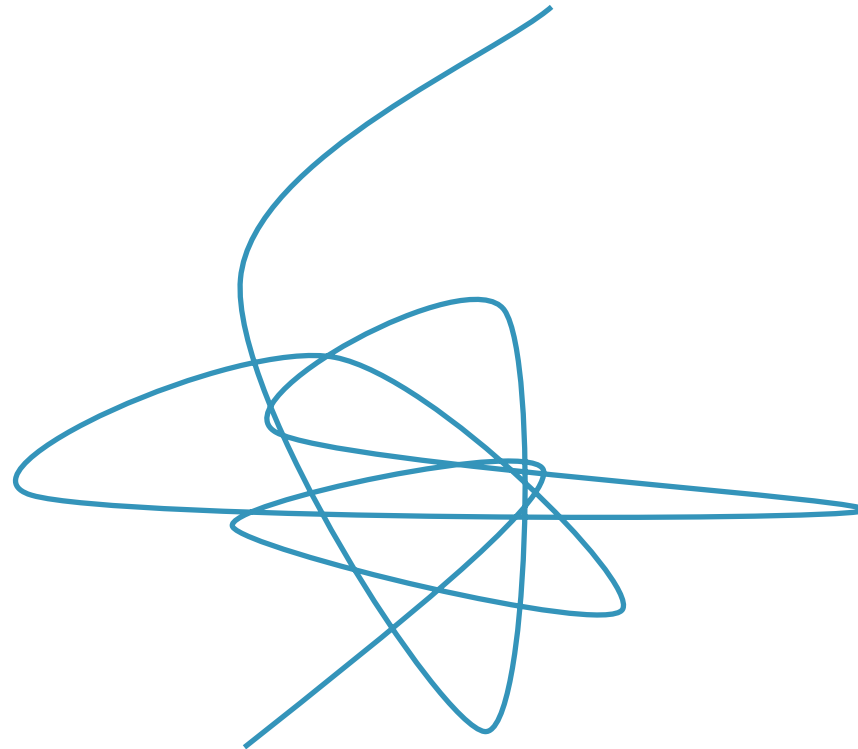
Introduction to Victim Advocacy

*Alejandro Palacios,
Victim Advocacy Training Manager*

How I got here.



Expectations



Reality

A little bit about myself...

- **Lay Legal Advocate DV Shelter 2011-2013**
- **Trainer (ACESDV) 2013-2016**
- **Tech Safety Specialist (NNEDV) 2017-2018**
- **Bilingual Lead Advocate (BLOOM365) 2018**
- **Victim Advocate (AZ Dept of Corrections) 2018-2022**
- **Crisis Counselor (Childhelp) 2019-Present**

Advocacy

Advocacy refers to the act of supporting or promoting a particular cause, issue, or policy. It is often undertaken by organizations, groups, or individuals to bring about change or influence decision-making. In the world of advocacy, ethical practices and responsibilities are of utmost importance.



Advocates

- Advocates walk along vt's/survivors through their experience of trauma
- Advocates accompany vt's/survivors through their healing
- Share knowledge on systems, processes and available resources



Role of an Advocate:

- **Do no harm**
- **Respectful**
- **Respect self-determination**
- **Non-judgmental responses**
- **Culturally humble**
- **Professional boundaries**



Values of an Advocate

Empowerment and Self-Determination

Act without judgement or agenda

Be informed

Promote anti-racism and non-discriminatory frameworks

Act from the standpoint of belief

Champion empathy and respect

Professional boundaries and confidentiality



Advocates Also:

- Offer Guidance
- Compassionate & Kind
- No Expectations of Gratitude
- Do the Right Thing



What is Trauma-Informed Care?

- A recognition that trauma is a pivotal force that shapes mental, emotional and physical well-being.
- A collaborative approach that envisions survivors and service providers in partnership rather than a top-down approach.
- Creating an environment where empowerment for victims/survivors can occur.

The Five Principles of Trauma-Informed Care

Safety



Ensuring physical and emotional safety

Common areas are welcoming and privacy is respected

Choice



Individual has choice and control

Individuals are provided a clear and appropriate message about their rights and responsibilities

Collaboration



Definitions

Making decisions with the individual and sharing power

Principles in Practice

Individuals are provided a significant role in planning and evaluating services

Trustworthiness



Task clarity, consistency, and Interpersonal Boundaries

Respectful and professional boundaries are maintained

Empowerment



Prioritizing empowerment and skill building

Providing an atmosphere that allows individuals to feel validated and affirmed with each and every contact at the agency

The Power of Holding Space

