

Accessibility: From the Beginning

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Presented for



Victims Services

Conference

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Objectives

- ✓ Understand the importance of accessibility from the beginning:
 - Education
 - Accessing Services
 - Utilizing Services
- ✓ Rise to the challenge of not thinking outside the box, but throwing the box away
- ✓ Meet people where they really are

Domestic Violence & People with Disabilities

- ⇒ Women with disabilities are significantly more likely to experience physical, sexual, and psychological abuses and stalking
- ⇒ Men with disabilities are more likely to experience stalking and psychological abuse than their peers without disabilities
- ⇒ The needs of victims, survivors and perpetrators with disabilities are often ignored because society does not recognize violence against people with disabilities as a critical problem

* [National Domestic Violence Hotline: People with Disabilities and Domestic Violence](#)

Signs of Abuse

A person in a relationship where abuse is happening may experience:

Monitoring (someone keeping track of what they do)

Being controlled

Being humiliated and demeaned

Threats to hurt them or their loved ones

Assuming consent given once means consent always

Being forced to do what they do not want to do

For many people with disabilities, this is everyday life

Making Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence Information Accessible

- Educate ALL people about the signs and what to do
- Provide materials in their language
- Sign language interpreters and sign language- and closed captioning-enhanced videos on websites
- Use words people with cognitive disabilities can understand
- Make educational materials available in other languages, brail, in pictures, etc.
- Meet them where they are, literally

[For more information see the Fact Sheet from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights](#)

How Do People Access Intake and Services?

Accessing Intake:

- Call 911
- Call an organization specializing in assisting victims
- Go to a website
- Tell someone they trust

Accessing Services:

- Go to counseling
- Go to an organization's offices
- Go to a domestic violence shelter

Making Intake Accessible

- Make documents available in multiple languages, including “plain language” and/or easy to read
- Provide multiple points of access such as video interface, website, telephone, etc.
- Make facilities fully accessible including larger entryways and bathrooms, ramps, etc.

Meet the person where they are

Making Services Accessible

- Assure office and program staff are educated about disabilities and People First Language
- Assure physical service locations are accessible for people with disabilities (i.e., ramps, signage in brail, visible alarms, etc.)
- Scheduling must be flexible to accommodate transportation issues
- Assure people have supports to fully engage with services

Ensure Accessibility

- [Checklists - Mid-Atlantic ADA Center \(adainfo.org\)](https://adainfo.org)
 - ✓ Accessibility Checklist for Existing Facilities
 - ✓ ADA Checklist: Health Care Facilities and Service Providers
 - ✓ ADA Parking and Entrance Checklist
 - ✓ Accessible Meetings, Events & Conferences Guide
 - ✓ Inclusive Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities

Find Help

- Have people with disabilities tour your facilities
- Reach out to these local organizations:
 - ✓ [Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council](#)
 - ✓ [State Council for Persons with Disabilities](#)
 - ✓ [Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities](#)
 - ✓ [Mid-Atlantic ADA Center](#)
 - ✓ [We Stand 4 Something, Inc.](#)

Questions?

