**Boundaries in Victim Services**

**Professional Boundaries** are limits that reinforce assigned responsibilities and protect those served from exploitation. They help us maintain professional objectivity, protect privacy (ours and others’), and help reduce ethical dilemmas.

When performing your assigned responsibilities, you represent yourself, fellow victim services personnel, your employing agency, and the field of victim services. Follow the policies and practices of the agency and those identified as best practices in the field.

Most people express a desire to help others as one of the reasons for entering the victim services field. However, there is more to being a helper than simply wanting to help. We must be able to separate ourselves from the pain and trauma of those we serve yet remain compassionate and engaged. If we fail to set boundaries, we run the risk of causing the victim further harm.

Effective training and professionalism can help prevent unintentional harm.