

STOP VAWA Statement of Acknowledgement

As a condition to receive your STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) award, the **Implementing Agency** is required to submit a signed statement acknowledging that activities will not be carried out that compromise victim safety and recovery:

The following activities have been found to jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions and cannot be supported with STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funding:

- *Procedures or policies that exclude victims from receiving safe shelter, advocacy services, counseling, and other assistance based on their actual or perceived age, immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health condition, physical health condition, criminal record, work in the sex industry, or the age and/or gender of their children;*
- *Offering perpetrators the option of entering pre-trial diversion programs;*
- *Requiring mediation or counseling for couples as a systemic response to domestic violence or sexual assault, or in situations in which child sexual abuse is alleged;*
- *Requiring victims to report sexual assault, stalking, or domestic violence crimes to law enforcement or forcing victims to participate in criminal proceedings;*
- *Relying on court-mandated batterer intervention programs that do not use the coercive power of the criminal justice system to hold batterers accountable for their behavior;*
- *Supporting policies that deny individuals access to services based on their relationship to the perpetrator;*
- *Supporting policies or engaging in practices that impose restrictive conditions to be met by the victim in order to receive services (e.g., attending counseling, seeking an order of protection);*
- *Sharing confidential victim information with outside organizations and/or individuals without the documented consent of the victim;*
- *Placing of batterers in anger management programs; or,*
- *Procedures that would penalize or impose sanctions on victims of domestic violence or sexual assault for failure to testify against the abuser and/or the perpetrator.*

In addition, applicants should be cognizant of victim confidentiality. In accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 13925(b)(2), applicants receiving OVW funding, and their subgrantees, must protect the confidentiality and privacy of persons receiving OVW-funded services to support victims' safety. OVW grantees and their subgrantees are prohibited from disclosing personally identifying information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied through the grantee and their subgrantee's programs, to any third party or third party database without informed, written, reasonably time-limited, consent of the person, unless compelled by statutory or court mandate. In this case, grantees and subgrantees must make reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information. They must also take necessary steps to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of the information. Regarding unemancipated minors or persons with disabilities lacking capacity to consent, a parent or guardian may consent to the disclosure; however, if the parent or guardian is the abuser of the minor, the person with disabilities, or the minor's other parent, he or she is prohibited from giving consent to the disclosure.

Project Director, Implementing Agency

Date

Project Title

Subgrant #