

Conference Call

Survivor Confidentiality & Privacy: Releases & Waivers

**March 24th, 2009
3:00 pm EST**



Survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking share private information with programs and advocates when they seek services. The extent to which their information remains private is central to a survivor's safety and empowerment.

When and how survivors may release their own personal information requires knowledge of the potential legal, ethical, and practical risks. Recent federal and state law changes and the rise of interest in tracking survivors' use of services has created challenges for programs and advocates who are trying to help survivors manage their confidential information.

This call will cover the following issues:

- ◆ Differences between a waiver of confidentiality or privilege and a release of information.
- ◆ When releases are required and where they are not appropriate or valid.
- ◆ When and how releases can be helpful and how they can be harmful.
- ◆ How long releases should last.
- ◆ Whether releases are required to be in writing every time.
- ◆ What language or phrases are legally required in order for a release to be effective.
- ◆ Releases for individuals with court-appointed guardians and other complex cases.
- ◆ Whether releases from an outside agency are a valid basis for the release of advocate or program information.
- ◆ When programs are required to release information without a survivor signing a release.

**Presented by
Julie Field, Esq.
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**The Safety Net Team of the
National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund
as part of the Technology, Confidentiality, & Innovative Partnerships Project**

**Register by March 23rd at:
<http://tinyurl.com/confidentialityreleasescall>**

*** This call is open to all OVW grantees***

For questions, please email tcip@nnedv.org or call 202-543-5566.

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