

Module 4: Identifying Common Ground

Purpose

The purpose of this module is to discuss the organizational principles and values shared by crime victim and disability service providers and advocates.

Lessons

1. Roles in the Crime Victim and Disability Service Professions
2. Understanding Other Disciplines
3. Differences and Commonalities

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Identify professional roles in the crime victim and disability service professions.
- Discuss the principles and values shared by crime victim service providers and disability service providers and advocates.
- Identify other organizations that work with crime victim service providers and disability service providers and advocates.

Participant Worksheets

No worksheets are required.

1. Roles in the Crime Victim and Disability Service Professions

When a person becomes a crime victim, a number of professionals could be involved to guide and support the crime victim through the healing and legal process *if* the individual decides that they want to participate in either or both of these processes. Individuals should be aware that the services exist, and that they are welcome to them, but they should never be forced to participate.

2. Understanding Other Disciplines

There are many different types of organizations within the disciplines of “victim services” and “disability services.” Each discipline has its own mission and values. And each organization within those two disciplines has its own mission and values as well.

However, there are many values that are common to both disciplines and all the organizations within those disciplines. So in this module we’re going to take a look at the mission and values of these groups and the allied professionals. For our purposes, “allied professionals” refers to professions other than those in the crime victim or disability service and advocacy fields, such as professionals in law enforcement, the criminal justice system, or medical and mental health.

All too often, professionals involved with crime victims with disabilities – even advocates – don’t see the whole person. They can’t visualize her going about daily life, or having dreams and fears. Remember that when you are assisting crime victims with disabilities: **they are people first**. If you are unsure what to do, ask the crime victim what he or she needs; don’t assume you know.

3. Differences and Commonalities

We can develop a deeper understanding *and* begin to identify ways to work together more effectively by identifying what we have in common. This may not always be easy. Members of the same discipline sometimes disagree with their own agency’s position on specific issues.

Appendix E in the Participant Manual – Descriptions of Disability and Crime Victim Organizations – includes descriptions and mission statements from various disability and crime victim organizations.