

**SHARP VA Refresher:  
Ethics in Victim  
Advocacy: Values &  
Response to Victims**

# Training Objectives

- Participants will gain insight into how their attitudes and beliefs influence response to sexual assault victims.
- Participants will strengthen crisis intervention skills through scenario-based discussions.

# Victim Advocacy

- Influenced by the personality and beliefs of the VA.
- Requires healthy and professional relationships between VAs and victims.
- Personal values and ethical codes influence our interactions with victims.
- VAs must learn how to keep personal values from interfering with victim support.

# What Are Values, Morals and Ethics?

# Definitions

- Values: Ideals or beliefs
- Morals: Relate to making decisions; what's right and wrong
- Ethics: Standards of behavior that typically reflect morals and values.

# Ethical Decisions are Impacted By:

Your character

Your commitment

Your personal viewpoint

# Activity

## Victim Vignette

# Discussion Points

- Any hesitations in working with this victim?
- What values may cause you to feel this way?
- How might your feelings impact your professional relationship with this victim?
- What can you do to put the victim's interests first?

# Discussion Continued

- What other situations do you feel may be challenging for you as a VA?
- How might you handle these situations?

# Activity

## Self-Awareness Inventory

**Statement 1: Members of a helping profession such as victim advocates, should refrain from getting too personally involved with victims they work with**

**Statement 2: A higher spiritual  
power should guide our behavior  
and thinking**

**Statement 3: Women Are Rarely  
Violent**

**Statement 4: The Needs of Victims  
Must Sometimes Override the SARC's  
Directive**

**Statement 5: Culture and Race are  
Not Factors in a Professional  
Helping Relationship. As human  
beings we are more similar than  
different.**

# SAPR VA Code of Ethics

Be sincere

Be compassionate

Be just

Keep confidences

Respect and protect the rights of the victims

Do not let personal convictions interfere

Be non-judgmental

Be non-discriminatory

Respect others

Respect governing laws

Do not accept gifts or money

**Activity**

**Is it Ethical?**

**What Can you Do to Assure  
Ethical Care for Victims?**