



# Part One – General Orientation

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Why are we offering a course on domestic violence advocacy specifically for survivors who have disabilities?



# Why DV advocacy for People with Disabilities?

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- Have you ever served a survivor with mental health issues and wondered how you could be a better advocate for her?
- Have you ever served a survivor with drug or alcohol problems?



# Why DV advocacy for People with Disabilities?

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- Have you ever had difficulties communicating with a survivor because she was Deaf or because you couldn't understand her?
- Have you ever wondered how to serve a survivor who has a service animal?



# Why DV advocacy for People with Disabilities?

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- Have you ever worked with a survivor who has difficulty navigating systems because the abuse she experienced has caused PTSD or a brain injury?
- Have you wrestled with problems related to a survivor's medications?



# Why DV advocacy for People with Disabilities?

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If you have been working in DV advocacy for any length of time, the answer to all of these questions is probably “yes.”

One person in four has a disability. The disability might be obvious or it could be completely unseen to you. This course will talk about disability and what it means to you as an advocate.



# Where to begin in advocating for survivors with disabilities?

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The first lesson of this course will give you an overview of the experience of people living with disabilities.

The second lesson will help you think about issues faced by people with disabilities who experience domestic violence.

The third lesson will give you some practical tools you can use in your advocacy practice.

The fourth lesson will help you connect with a disability advocate in your community.



# A note on working with survivors with disabilities

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- While the majority of people who seek domestic violence services are women, trans and non-binary people as well as men who have disabilities are also more likely to experience a wide range of violence.
- As your community partnerships broaden to include disability advocates, you may have more men, trans and non-binary people with disabilities seeking your advocacy services.



# Connecting What You Have Learned to Your Work

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Throughout the course, you will come across slides that say:

**“ADVOCACY PRACTICE”**

These slides will suggest practical strategies you can use when serving survivors with disabilities.