



The LeeShore Center

*Services for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Support for the Central Peninsula's Families*

I give my child _____ permission to volunteer at The LeeShore Center under the supervision of agency staff. I understand The LeeShore Center adheres to strict rules of confidentiality and all volunteers providing services or work at LeeShore are asked to sign a Confidentiality Agreement form stating they understand the agency's Confidentiality policies.

Parent / Guardian

Date

Education and Training Assistant

Date

Executive Director

Date

325 South Spruce Street
Business Line...283-9479
Crisis Line...283-7257
Kenai, Alaska 99611
Fax Line...283-5844



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The LeeShore Center began in May 1977, providing a central location where women of this community could meet and know each other on an individual basis as fully functioning adults in control of their lives. In July 1977, a group of five women were sent to an international Women's Year State Conference in Anchorage, where they attended a workshop on "Starting a Resource Center". The group then established itself as the **Women's Resource Center** and began to provide educational meetings, films, and workshops to schools and service organizations, describing their goals as a feminist group.

Victim services began in the fall of 1977 when the needs of battered women in this community became apparent. The Women's Resource Center met with representatives from the Anchorage Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC) shelter and established the Battered Women's System. The system incorporated emergency aid and ongoing assistance to battered women and their children, as well as information and education for the community as a whole.

In an effort to expand and continue effective service, the Women's Resource Center combined forces with other resource centers, family violence programs, and sexual assault projects in Alaska, establishing a collective body known as the "Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA). Currently there are 21 programs who participate as a voice against domestic violence, sexual assault and other forms of violence. Funding for the Women's Resource Center's domestic violence and sexual assault services are available in part through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA), established by the Legislature as the governing body to oversee domestic violence, sexual assault and batterers intervention programs. In January 1981, the name of the center was changed to the **Kenai-Soldotna Women's Resource and Crisis Center (WRCC)**.

Through the assistance and support of community members, WRCC completed a 7,600 square foot building in 1985. The LeeShore emergency shelter was built entirely as a volunteer community project on land donated by the City of Kenai. The 20 bed shelter was completed in June 1985 and Governor Sheffield cut the ribbon at the open house on September 6, 1985.

In 1988, WRCC received funds through Governor Cowper's Jobs Bill and completed a 1,000 square foot addition and began a batterers intervention program for domestic violence offenders in February 1989.

On October 1, 2004, WRCC changed its name to **The LeeShore Center**, to better reflect the agency's mission.

Along with 24-hour shelter services provided by a qualified professional staff, The LeeShore Center provides a 24-hour advocacy for victims including crisis intervention and educational, support groups, advocacy for abused/neglected vulnerable adults, community education and rural outreach, and transitional housing for homeless victims and their children. The LeeShore Center also operates a 36-week state certified Batterers Intervention Program.

**The LeeShore Center
Mission Statement**

To promote healthy families and a violence free community while providing a safe haven for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault: by treating all people with respect, creating an educated and aware public; and by empowering those that have been oppressed while striving to eliminate domestic abuse and sexual assault

Confidentiality Policy

It is the policy of The LeeShore Center to maintain client confidentiality. Clients are advised that at no time will information be released regarding their involvement in the program except for the following reasons:

1. The client signs a written Release of Information form authorizing information to be released to a specific agency for a specific purpose. The form is person and time specific.
2. A court order compelling The LeeShore Center staff to release records.
3. LeeShore Center staff are mandatory reporters of known or suspected child abuse or vulnerable adult abuse.
4. In cases where staff believe there is eminent danger of injury to the client or to another person.

The following information will provide further guidelines on the issue of client confidentiality.

- A. No identifying information about clients (names, addresses, social security numbers, etc.) are to be revealed except within the confines of the program.
- B. Discussing details of the case outside the confines of the program, even through names, addresses, and social security number are not revealed, is considered a breach of confidentiality.
- C. The fact that a case has been made public through any of the news media does not alter the fact that the client still has confidentiality privileges. An orientation regarding confidentiality is conducted for all new staff and volunteers. Each new employee and volunteer will receive information on program confidentiality and will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement. It is included in the agreement that should a staff person or volunteer breach confidentiality, they will be dismissed at the Executive Director's discretion.

Confidentiality Agreement

I, _____, have received and read The LeeShore Center's Confidentiality Policy Summary. I agree to maintain client confidentiality as described in the summary. I understand that dismissal from paid or volunteer employment at The LeeShore Center may result if client confidentiality is breached.

Signature

Date

CODE OF ETHICS

The role of a volunteer is important in meeting the needs of The LeeShore Center. In volunteering my time and energy, I understand The LeeShore Center is not liable for payment to me for work I perform on a voluntary basis.

As a volunteer at The LeeShore Center, I realize that I am bound to a code of ethics similar to that which binds the paid staff members.

I will not discriminate against any individual, family, or group seeking The LeeShore Center services due to: race, handicap, sex, age, marital status, economic status, veteran status, sexual preference, religion, national origin, or political affiliation.

I will respect the privacy and safety of all agency clients by abiding to The LeeShore Center's confidentiality policy.

I promise to take to my volunteer work an attitude of open mindedness, to be willing to be trained for it, and to bring to it interest and attention. I believe that my attitude toward volunteer work should be professional.

I understand that should I not be able to be present for the time I have scheduled, I will give my supervisor prior notice of my absence.

Volunteer Signature

Date