



Statement of Volunteer Ethics While Working with Clients

Teen Living Programs believes that all youth are entitled to a safe and loving home where they gain an assurance of **belonging**, a desire for **independence**, a commitment to **competence** and a heart of **compassion**.

Teen Living Program Volunteers are expected to abide by TLP's core values of:

- **Excellence**
- **Integrity**
- **Respect**
- **Innovation**
- **Enthusiasm**

Informed by these values, Teen Living Programs' volunteers will adhere to the following code of ethics:

Volunteers must:

- Remember that all clients whom they meet and serve are worthy of dignity and respect.
- Respect and honor the decisions made by clients unless those choices pose a serious threat of harm to the client or others. In such a situation, a volunteer should immediately seek support from a staff member.
- Honor differences in ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, religion, age, marital status, socio-economic status and abilities.
- Maintain non-social relationships with clients, including seeking clients out for any type of interaction beyond the volunteer experience.
- Refrain from and form of sexual contact or any activities that may be perceived as a sexual advancement.
- Refrain from any forms of harassment, coercion, intimidation or otherwise abusive words or actions.
- Never make the receipt of volunteer services or participation contingent upon acceptance of a particular religious, political or social belief.
- Never preach or proselytize with clients. Such activities do not respect the autonomy of clients and create inappropriate power dynamics between volunteers and clients.
- Inform a staff members immediately when a client has made a specific threat against a, individual or presents as being a threat to him or herself.

All volunteers must acknowledge their commitment to and receipt of the statement of ethics by signing below.

Signature of Volunteer

Date

Printed name of Volunteer

Signature of Staff Member

For more information, contact Nia Tavoularis at Teen Living Programs: 312-568-5700, ext. 228, or niat@teenliving.org
Visit us online at www.teenliving.org.