National Peer Helper Association

# Code of Ethics for Peer Helpers

Peer Helpers shall be people of personal integrity, as evidenced by a commitment to and pursuit of:

1. A philosophy which upholds peer helping as an effective way to address the needs and conditions of people.
2. Each individual’s rights to dignity, self-development and self-direction.
3. Supervision, training and support from professional staff while involved in the peer helper program.
4. The development of a nurturing personality which:
   * Reflects a positive role model and healthy lifestyle, and
   * Rejects the pursuit of personal power, elitist status and gain at the expense of others.
5. Maintenance of confidentiality except in the following situations which shall be reported to professional staff:
   * Situations involving real or potential danger;
   * Child abuse, sexual abuse;
   * Severe family dysfunction, psychotic behavior, extreme alcohol and other drug abuse and other problems beyond the experience of a peer helper.
6. Recognize personal limits- report and deal with potential threats to own emotional or physical well-being.