



Communities + Generations + Innovations

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## **Circles of Care**

### **SAFEGUARDING: Principles of Good Neighbor Help**

*A Circle of Care* is not just about giving and receiving help. It is about making relationships among community members. Healthy and helping relationships require trust. Here are some tips on safeguarding people's trust in each other.

#### **Be extremely careful with detailed information**

- Don't create public documents with lists of names and addresses.
- Don't ask for or keep any financial information (such as credit card information to make purchases).
- If you give or raise money to help someone, keep this information as private as possible.

#### **What accountability looks like**

- Doing what you say you will do or explaining what happened
- Keeping appointments for when you will call, run an errand and so on
- Not promising anything you can't guarantee
- Not sending people on a wild goose chase. If you refer people to contact an organization, be sure you personally can make sure they can provide the support you think they can. It is not helpful, or kind, to send people chasing unreliable help. It could be dangerous to suggest a person is covered or eligible for a service when in reality they are not.
- Staying current with up-to-date information from <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>

#### **Rely on the Circle for Accountability**

If you see things you think are wrong, remember you are in a Circle of mutual care and mutual responsibility. You are not alone. If you feel someone in your Circle is taking advantage of others, or sharing private information, you may need to assess the risks together and decide what to do.

- For complicated situations, reach out to experienced and trusted people in your community.
- Teachers, nurses, social care providers all have experience with high level safeguarding practices.