

# Accountability and Working with Offending Parents



Don Chapin  
Crossroads Nonviolence Education, LLC

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# Understanding and Encouraging Personal Accountability

Stopping and Owning the behavior

Being Honest vs. Truthful about it

Acknowledging the effects on all concerned



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# Stopping and Owning the Behavior

- ▶ Seek Cultural / Traditional information
- ▶ Seek out New Alternatives
- ▶ Commit yourself to long term change
- ▶ Work to hold others accountable for abusive, controlling, violent behavior and assist them to make change

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### Become Honest Vs. Truthful with Self and Others

- ▶ Acknowledge abusive, controlling and/or violent words, actions, and behaviors
- ▶ Articulate the abusive, controlling, violent behavior patterns
- ▶ Talk openly about the effects
- ▶ Attempt to set the record straight with those you have been misrepresentative with

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### Acknowledge the Effects

- ▶ Understand how it affects current relationships
- ▶ Acknowledge privilege you hold and learn how it guides your choices
- ▶ Listen to how your behavior has affected others and understand how they now experience you
- ▶ Accept the anger (of women and children) as it relates your choices

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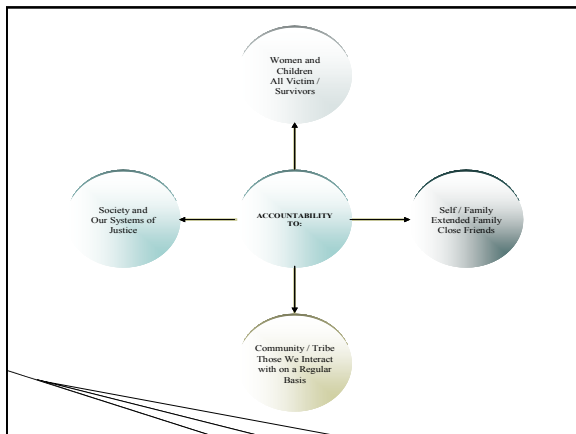
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## Strengthen Efforts to Increase Awareness & Promote Collaboration



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### Awareness

- ▶ Respecting the voices, work, and expertise of Child & Youth, Domestic Violence, & Sexual Assault Advocates and enlisting their feedback about your work
- ▶ Knowing that what affects one member of the community affects the whole community – Domestic and Sexual Violence affects us all
- ▶ Hearing and accepting women's, children's, non-offending Parents' collective/individual anger as it pertains to violence and oppression.

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### Collaboration

- ▶ Understanding the high level of violence perpetrated in our communities, who it is attributed to, and who does it benefit
- ▶ Building a trusting / working relationship with local Children and Youth Advocates, Tribal DV/SA Program and Advocates
- ▶ Develop a common language and philosophy for addressing violence against Primary Care Givers, Youth and Children

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### Respecting the Voices and Experiences of Primary Care Givers

- ▶ Work in your own agency towards the establishment of protocols, practices, codes, and procedures that centralize safety for Primary Care Givers as well as children and youth.
- ▶ Acknowledge that offending parents use the courts, social services, law enforcement, ICWA, and family members in positions of power to retaliate and/or to shield themselves.

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### Being an Ally to Advocacy Includes but is not Limited to:

- ▶ Model the behavior in your private, personal and political lives that your program encourages.
- ▶ Know that forgiveness is about remembering not forgetting. Men shouldn't expect their behavior to be forgotten.
- ▶ Defend women's and children's right to live without the fear of violence.

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**"We must be the change we wish to see in the world..."**



...we must return to honor"

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Contact Information

**Don Chapin**

**Crossroads Nonviolence Education, LLC**

**351 SW 7<sup>TH</sup> St. Newport, Oregon 97365**

**Cell: 541-270-2880 Work: 541-574-4475**

**[ddcpax@newportnet.com](mailto:ddcpax@newportnet.com)**

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