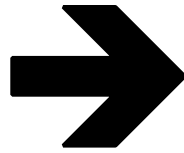


## A very simple way to evaluate the critical outcomes of our work:

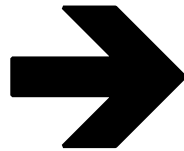
For people experiencing a pattern of power, control and exploitation; called “survivors”



**Self-determination**

**Safety\***

For people establishing a pattern of power, control and exploitation; called “abusers”



**Accountability**

\*Note: **the order is important! Self-determination is prioritized over safety.** When a conflict between these two critical outcomes arises, **promoting Self-determination is the primary obligation of advocacy.**

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At times, the anti-violence movement has prioritized “safety” over “self-determination”, building many services based on the idea that, “If we make a survivor safe, than she can start to increase her self-determination.” In our experience, the opposite is true. Instead of a *product* of safety, self-determination is a *necessary pre-condition* to creating sustainable, authentic safety in one’s life.

The Washington State Administrative Code’s definition of advocacy-based counseling verifies the importance of this building block concept. (*a big “Right On!” to the women that ensured this concept was codified in the WAC*):

**WAC 388-61A-0145** *Advocacy-based counseling means the involvement of a client with an advocate counselor in an individual, family, or group session with the primary focus on **safety** and on **empowerment** of the client **through reinforcing the client's autonomy and self-determination.***

**That is to say:** Advocates work to fortify peoples’ self-determination so that those people may empower themselves and create safety for themselves.

Still, many well-meaning anti-violence programs continue to focus on safety almost to the exclusion of self-determination.

**To sum up:**

**Self-determination is the MEANS,  
Safety & Empowerment are the ENDS.**