

## PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

### Program Policies

**Program Objective:** The Meso Foundation Peer-to-Peer Volunteer Program will connect patients, caregivers, and bereaved members of the mesothelioma community with vetted volunteers who have had similar journeys and experiences. Peers are people who share a common, lived experience.

#### Program Expectations:

1. **Volunteer Role** - All volunteers understand and agree that their relationship with the Foundation is a volunteer position and that your role does not constitute employment. All volunteers are expected to present a positive example to patients, caregivers, and bereaved members of the mesothelioma community
2. **Volunteer Conduct Requirements**
  - a. **Communication** – All communications between the volunteer and peer will use positive, professional, and polite language. At no time will any communications include obscenities, racial epithets, pejorative terms, or other derogatory phrases. All communications between the volunteer and the Foundation have the same expectations.
  - b. **Confidentiality and Privacy** – Volunteer – peer interactions must protect the privacy of the peer, are never recorded, or shared outside of Foundation staff, and all information is kept confidential. Any information provided by the Foundation related to business operations or strategic direction must be kept confidential as well.
  - c. **Evidence Based Practice** – The Foundation expects that all volunteers will guide peers to evidence based resources including content found on the website ([www.curemeso.org](http://www.curemeso.org)) and refer patients with more complicated medical questions to the Patient Services Director.
  - d. **Volunteer Behavior** – We expect volunteers to behave professionally, with compassion and diplomacy.
    - i. **Physical Contact** – There will be no physical contact between a volunteer and a peer except for exchanging greetings.
    - ii. **Cultural Sensitivity** – Peers and volunteers will likely have different demographic backgrounds (e.g., age, sex, income level, race, employment, location, level of education, sexual orientation, political party, family situation, medical literacy). Volunteers must be culturally sensitive.
    - iii. **Unlawful Behavior** - The Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation does not condone any conduct or pattern of behavior or any criminal behavior, which may or may not incur risk of injury, physical harm to self or others or presents a substantial possibility of loss or destruction of property. Engaging in these behaviors will result in termination of the volunteer from the program.
  - e. **Harm Prevention** – We want everyone involved in Foundation activities to be safe. We expect volunteers to advise the Patient Services Director immediately if they believe their assignment is unsafe or if the peer is at risk of self-harm or harm by others.
3. **Volunteer Conflict of Interest** – All volunteers are required to complete a statement which outlines any legal, financial, or business relationship they have (or had) with lawyers, legal marketing firms, or other companies related to mesothelioma. Volunteers are prohibited from recommending law firms or advising on lawsuits, legal tactics, or other activities related to mesothelioma litigation.
4. **Volunteer Resignation and Termination** – Volunteers have the right to resign from volunteer service at any time or to take a break from volunteer service as needed. We ask that volunteers advise the Foundation as soon as possible. The Foundation also reserves the right to review or terminate any volunteer who engages in behavior which does not align with the expectations outlined in this document or that affects the reputation of the Foundation.

#### Volunteer Declaration

I commit to meeting the expectations of the Peer-to-Peer Volunteer Program as outlined in this document. I will accept feedback, participate in training, and be accountable to the Foundation for my volunteer services. I agree to ask for help and support when needed, I will not accept or request money, gifts, or “perks” from peers, and I will avoid conflicts of interest related to the Foundation.

I understand that this is a volunteer program and that if I violate any of the expectations, that I will be terminated. I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of this document.