




Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services



“I moved across the country and
was able to find new doctors,
connect with DVR to find a job,
and for the first time,
I felt stable.”

- An ADWAS Client

Our History

ADWAS was founded in 1986 by Marilyn Smith, using the basement of her home as headquarters. At the time, it was the only agency of its kind in the United States.

Now, located in the Maple Leaf area of Seattle, ADWAS remains one of the oldest DV/SA organizations centered on helping Deaf and DeafBlind survivors. We are also the first in the nation to offer supportive housing for Deaf survivors.

Deaf Women Accuse Emergency Telephone Dispatchers of Discrimination

The Associated Press ©

SEATTLE (AP) Five deaf and hearing-impaired women say they were falsely arrested by police and held by emergency dispatchers in four jurisdictions because of inadequate training and practices. Some of the women contend they were false arrests.

them, he added.

State law requires that police obtain interpreters for deaf victims, witnesses and potential defendants.

Tibbs said interpreters contacted by King County 911 dispatchers don't always respond quickly.

write what happened, deaf people use a syntax and grammar that can't be read by hearing others, she was held by police for hours in jail.

The case against several dispatchers, saying they dropped when they were called 911.

Pierce County sheriff's deputies responded. But the deputies, after talking to the other person involved, instead arrested her.

Payson is deaf, and her alleged assailant communicated by speaking.

Payson and four other deaf women alleged they have been arrested and held in jail for hours.

LOCAL

<http://www.tribnet.com>

Deaf women allege rights v

Northwest Women's Law Center in Seattle. They allege that the state and counties violated the Americans with Disabilities Act and other state and federal laws that protect the civil rights of people that are deaf.

Both the state laws and the ADA require police to provide an American Sign Language interpreter to take statements from deaf victims or witnesses. Police also must provide an interpreter to notify deaf suspects of crimes or to take statements, on

Advocacy Program

ADWAS' advocates are trained to support clients that have experienced domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Services are free of charge and available to people who are Deaf/DeafBlind

Our advocates:

- Help develop safety plans
- Inform about Deaf/DeafBlind survivors' rights
- Coordinate access to lawyers, CPS, hospitals, counselors and housing systems
- Connect clients with a therapist
- Provide legal advocacy

Counseling

ADWAS recognizes the impact of trauma from sexual assault and domestic violence.

Our licensed therapist on staff offers the following services:

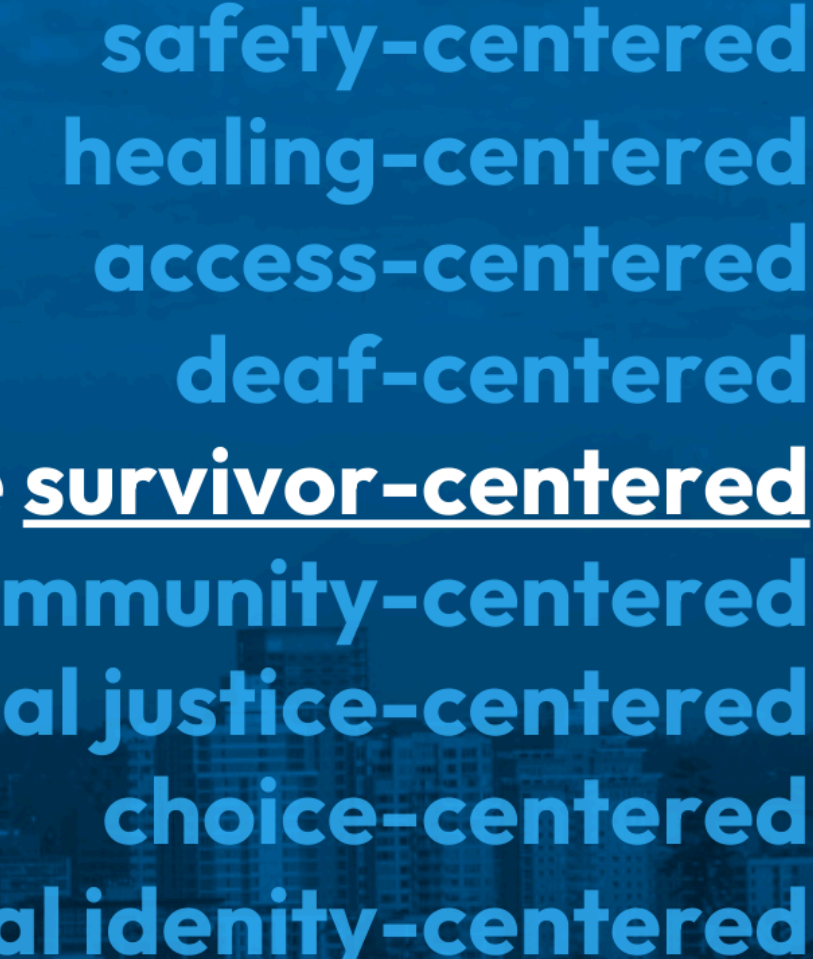
- Short-term crisis counseling/therapy
- On-going individual/family counseling
- Support groups/group therapy
- Referrals to mental health professionals outside of our network



At ADWAS, we are

**CO
soci**

culture



safety-centered
healing-centered
access-centered
deaf-centered
survivor-centered
community-centered
racial justice-centered
choice-centered
cultural identity-centered

Training & Technical Assistance

ADWAS has dedicated staff ready to reach out to community partners to ensure that they are equipped with the skills and tools necessary to support Deaf/DeafBlind survivors.

Some of the topics we cover:

- Abuse in the Deaf Community
- Trauma-Informed Sign Language for Interpreters
- Best Communication Practices for Deaf Clients and Survivors
- Deaf Accessibility in Legal Settings

Children's Program

The Children's Program centers children who are survivors or witnesses of DV/SA and provides programming and support that is trauma-informed and facilitates healthy learning at school and at home.

Up to
50% of Deaf children may already
be victims of sexual assault.

ADWAS is here to help.

Supportive Housing

ADWAS provides supportive housing apartments for women and their children escaping violence. ADWAS also provides workshops for clients to build the skills needed to be self-sufficient and independent.

Housing amenities:

- 1, 2, or 3 bedrooms that are fully furnished
- Full kitchen and living room space
- Spacious bathroom
- Washers and dryers on-site
- Neighborhood park and elementary school nearby
- Structured activities for kids living in the building

The Deaf Hotline

Started in 2003, the Deaf Hotline is a 24/7 hotline that is ASL accessible for people experiencing abuse. With the Deaf Hotline, you can consult with a culturally-adept and trained advocate in ASL.

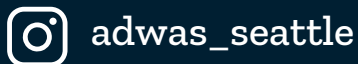
Whether you're in need of safety planning, crisis intervention, emotional support or have some questions, we are here for you.

National Deaf Hotline:

855-812-1001

Let's keep in touch!

Follow us on social media!



For more information,
please visit our website:

www.adwas.org

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