AVOIDING STIGMATIZING LANGUAGE

Why is language important? Insensitive, name-calling, or judgmental language is stigmatizing. Stigma can feed shame and guilt, and those feelings can keep people from seeking the help they need. By being sensitive to the language we use, we can communicate respect and understanding to the person who has yet to "own" their issue or who is in active recovery. Use **person-centered, non-judgmental language** instead of stigmatizing language to be respectful, sensitive, and supportive.

STIGMATIZING LANGUAGE	PERSON-CENTERED / NON-JUDGMENTAL LANGUAGE
Addict Junkie Abuser Druggie Pot Head/Meth Head	Person in active addiction Person with Substance Use Disorder
Drug habit	Substance Use Disorder Disease
Abuse	Misuse Harmful Use
Clean Sober Ex-addict	Person in recovery Substance-free Addiction-free Person in remission
Relapse	Setback
Clean test result/drug screen Dirty test result/drug screen	Negative test result/drug screen Positive test result/drug screen

Together Arkansas, including the course and these resource materials, has been developed to raise awareness with businesses about how to respond to the risks associated with the misuse of opioids and other drugs. The content is meant for educational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice or replacing the work needed to develop a responsible drug-free workplace policy and program. As such, it should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a legal professional or other competent advisor. If you have questions about this course or the information presented here, please reach out Contact@TogetherArkansas.com.

To view the other modules in this course, visit www.TogetherArkansas.com.

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