

BFO Ottawa - Virtual Participant Disclaimer

Notification to Participants

By joining a Bereaved Families of Ontario-Ottawa (BFO-Ottawa) meeting or participating in a BFO-Ottawa program or activity of any kind, participants acknowledge that they have read and understood the following Disclaimer, Limitations of Confidentiality Statement, Privacy Guidelines and Privacy Statement and agree with and accept all of that which is stated, as follows:

Disclaimer

Information provided by Bereaved Families of Ontario- Ottawa (BFO-Ottawa) is collected from many sources, and includes information based upon the personal experiences of bereaved individuals. The information provided by BFO-Ottawa is **not intended to be medical advice or professional counselling advice**. It is information provided solely in context of the volunteer peer support mission of BFO-Ottawa: “bereaved helping the bereaved learn to live with grief”. It is intended only to facilitate self-help for BFO-Ottawa’s program participants and not for any other purpose.

Individuals who support and facilitate the peer support programs of BFO-Ottawa are volunteers, with a diversity of backgrounds, with the shared experience of personal bereaved loss. These volunteers receive training to prepare them for their facilitation and support roles in BFO-Ottawa programs, but they do not provide counselling or any services in any professional capacity. Similarly, all information, comments or suggestions, including written or other material, is provided by volunteers in BFO-Ottawa programs only in context of the shared bereavement experience. **For professional advice or counselling**, bereaved persons must see a physician, professional counsellor, or another health care provider.

Limits of Confidentiality

All BFO-Ottawa volunteers are subject to a confidentiality agreement, whereby they have agreed to keep confidential the information shared by participants in context of BFO-Ottawa’s programs. However, it is understood and accepted that there are exceptions to the agreement of confidentiality which include legal requirements for reporting related to a child in need of protection under the law; obtaining assistance or engaging authorities or third parties where there is concern that a person may be in danger of self-harm, or harming others; or other circumstances in which a person is required by law to provide information, such as being subject to subpoena or other court order.

Online Programs Privacy Guideline

Online program participants must ensure that they are in a private space where the conversation cannot be heard by non-participants. In this context, it is recommended that participants join online meetings using headphones, so that only participants can hear the audio from the meeting.



Privacy Statement

BFO-Ottawa respects your privacy. We protect participants' and volunteers' personal information and adhere to all legal requirements with respect to protecting your privacy. Program personnel will only access your personal information on an as-needed basis. We do not rent, sell or trade our contact lists or other personal information. We use your contact information to assist us in providing you with appropriate information, and to keep you informed on the activities of BFO-Ottawa, including programs, special events, funding needs, opportunities to volunteer or to give, etc. through periodic contact. If at any time you wish to be removed from BFO-Ottawa contact lists, please inform us by telephone at 613-567-4278 or via e-mail at office@bfo-ottawa.org.