



**Life is looking up at Downsize Farm**

## Code of Conduct

*Downsize Farm Support Services accepts participants on an individualized basis, matching program resources with the interests of the clients. When individuals join us, the dynamics of relationships change as we integrate into a group of friends with common ground and as each person joins in with their unique personality and abilities. Together we “live, love, laugh, learn, and leave a legacy”. In order to maintain a positive and safe social atmosphere, a basic code of conduct has been established. If honored, we believe that all DFSS participants will enjoy their daily activities, with no significant disruptions necessary to address behavioral or relational issues.*

### **PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

The DFSS program seeks to strike a balance between structure and flexibility. Each day will begin with an explanation of a basic plan of activities for the day, developed by blending personal interests, seasonal focus, and spontaneous events. Typically, participants will be expected to join in program activities, but staff may make some modifications that seem more appropriate or interesting for those involved. Activities will be created to support individual goals, but also to develop effective social skills and positive work habits. In general, requests to take naps, use media devices, or other efforts intended to isolate and/or avoid participation in activities will be discouraged. Time to relieve stress, deal with illness, or individual circumstance will be recognized.

### **RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR**

At DFSS, the rights and dignity of each program participant will be honored. While the personal social skills and awareness of clients may vary and the daily responsibilities of staff change from time to time, respectful behavior will be expected. Personal conduct considered to be inappropriate will be tactfully addressed. Respect is conveyed in many ways, but in general, it includes words of encouragement, positive terms of expression, good hygiene, clean dress, table manners, and courteous group interaction. Boundaries of personal space and privacy will be honored and intentionally hurtful, disruptive and otherwise offensive behavior will be considered “teachable moments”.

### **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

DFSS believes that basic human dignity at any level is upheld when people are given personal choices and are also affirmed or held accountable for the decisions they make. Clients may occasionally choose to ignore boundaries, refuse to respect others, expect others to get out of their way, ridicule others’ ability or appearance, and persist in oppositional attitudes. If a program participant continues to display negative attitudes or behavior that disrupts programming for others, every effort will be made to model appropriate behavior and clarify acceptable boundaries. These corrective measures will be made as privately and personalized as possible. DFSS will consider ongoing resistance as an expression of choice to no longer attend. Prior to asking any individual to leave the program, his county SSA and other support team members will be notified and involved in a corrective strategy, behavior support plan adjustment or an exit determination.

I have reviewed the Downsize Farm Code of Conduct and agree to follow these guidelines:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I reviewed this document with the client and his representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date