

DefendDignity

Defend Dignity's Survivor Support Fund – Policy

Last updated: September 2018

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ABOUT DEFEND DIGNITY:

Defend Dignity (dD) works to end all sexual exploitation in Canada. dD is a justice initiative of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Commercial sexual exploitation includes: pornography, strip clubs, escorts, massage parlors and prostitution. All involve the selling of sexual services which undermine the dignity of women, men and children and are detrimental to a healthy society.

Defend Dignity works to end all sexual exploitation through:

- Raising awareness on the realities of all forms of sexual exploitation through events and resources.
- Advocacy for law and policy reform
- Aiding individuals, non-profits and faith organizations to come alongside victims and at risk youth, through resources and training.

Further information about Defend Dignity can be accessed at www.defenddignity.ca.

ABOUT THE FUND:

The Defend Dignity Survivor Support Fund was created to provide accessible financial support to individuals who have experienced sexual exploitation in Canada in any form, such as prostitution, sex trafficking, escorting, massage parlours and/or strip club involvement, survival sex, and/or involvement in pornography. This fund is accessible to persons of age 16 and over who have been affected by sexual exploitation. A maximum of \$2,500 can be accessed per person who receives assistance from this fund per year. **Please note that this fund can only be accessed by referral from a church or non-profit agency.**

ACCEPTABLE USES OF THE FUND:

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The Survivor Support Fund can be used for a variety of purposes that serve to assist an individual who has experienced sexual exploitation, including financial needs such as: paying off debt, registration for continuing education, accessing treatment/transitional housing, first and/or last month of rent, groceries, a week of child care, etc. This is not an exhaustive list – any financial need can be referred, though it remains under the sole discretion of Defend Dignity to determine whether an application will be accepted or declined.

IMPORTANT: Please include specific dollar amounts for ALL needs that are submitted in your application. If there are multiple needs that the individual has, please itemize the needs in order of highest to lowest priority. In the case that funds are being requested for a time sensitive need, please indicate so in your application.

FUND DISPERSAL TIMELINE:

The fund will be dispersed twice every year, in November and May. Referrals will be accepted from October 1-31 for the fall intake, and from April 1-30 for the spring intake, and can be completed through the Defend Dignity website (<http://defenddignity.ca/survivor-support-fund-form>). The fund will only be dispersed to the agency or church applying for the fund. It is the expectation of Defend Dignity that the agency/church will then either:

- a) write a cheque directly to the institution requiring payment (such as a university, residential program, day care facility, etc.), or
- b) purchase a gift card for the intended establishment as laid out in the referral (such as a grocery store, furniture store, etc.).

The financial gift can ONLY be used for its intended purpose as outlined in the accepted referral. Defend Dignity requests that a copy of all receipts be submitted along with a Follow-Up Questionnaire. The agency or church receiving and dispensing the funds is responsible for any needed tax reporting of benefits on behalf of the individual(s) benefiting from the funds.

REFERRAL PROCESS/REQUIREMENTS:

The requirements for a referral to Defend Dignity Survivor Support Fund are as follows:

- The referral must be completed and submitted by a staff member from a non-profit agency or church within Canada
- A letter describing the need, the reason for application, and how the fund will be used from a staff member of a non-profit agency or church within Canada
- A letter from the individual applying for funding also describing the need, the reason for application, and how the fund will be used
- A completed application form (accessible from our website at the following link: <http://defenddignity.ca/survivor-support-fund-form>)

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- A signed waiver form (accessible from our website at the following link (<https://defenddignity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/March-2018-dD-SSF-Waiver.pdf>))

No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES:

Before funds are delivered to an individual selected to receive the fund, a waiver must be signed and returned to Defend Dignity from the agency or church making the referral as part of a completed application (the waiver is found at <https://defenddignity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/March-2018-dD-SSF-Waiver.pdf>). This waiver confirms that a [follow-up questionnaire](#) (emailed to all successful applicants) will be answered by the agency/church and returned to Defend Dignity by June 30 for Spring Intake and December 30 for Fall Intake, and that all receipts for purchases made with the funds given will be copied and submitted to Defend Dignity.

Follow-up questionnaires are requested because it is important for future improvement of the fund to know how the fund has been used, and if it was or was not successful in its implementation for its recipients. If something occurs upon receipt of the fund and the individual does not use the funds for the intended purpose, the expectation of Defend Dignity in offering this fund is that the agency/church who made the referral will report to Defend Dignity what occurred. This DOES NOT mean that this agency/church will not be eligible to make referrals in the future. Rather, this is for internal tracking purposes as we continue to develop this fund and clarify its purposes and the procedures around its dispersal.

Defend Dignity reserves the right to keep a confidential basic record of those who have applied for funding. This record is private and will **only** be viewed by Defend Dignity's Director, Survivor Support Fund Coordinator, and Administrative Assistant. After the final decisions have been made about the fund's dispersal, the applications themselves will be returned to the sender and deleted from all emails and files belonging to Defend Dignity and its Advisory Team members involved in the selection process.

Thank you for applying!