

**jerseycape.org**

***Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month***

**Disability Awareness/People First Language Pledge**

I pledge:

* To advocate and accept my responsibility to be respectful to the individuals I work with and for.
* To respect and treat all individuals equally.
* To call each person by their name and refer to them as “individuals/people", and stop using the word “client”.
* To support self-advocacy and stand up for individuals’ human rights.
* To be an advocate for “no more R word” in my workplace and everywhere I go.
* To assist and make sure that each person that I work with can make their own choices, is part of a community of their choice, and feel accepted to be themselves.
* I will use "people first language", which means seeing the person, not the disability, using words and terms that are easier for people to understand.
* To be an ambassador for self-advocates, speak up for people first language, and be the voice for change that makes peoples’ lives happen!

To the best of my ability I solemnly swear to live by this pledge.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_