

Weekend Screening Criteria

We appreciate the efforts of our referral sources to assist us in screening weekend participants by referring men who are appropriate candidates and by not referring those who may be inappropriate. In order to assist with this process, we have developed the following weekend screening criteria.

We do everything within our power to make every weekend a warm, safe, and supportive place for every man who attends. At the same time, we recognize that a Victories weekend can be an intense experience that may not be appropriate for some men. If you wish to contact a Weekend Leader for a confidential discussion about an individual client and his suitability for a weekend, please contact our office at 312.604.5013.

Criteria for Inclusion. In general, a man would be appropriate for a Victories Weekend, if, in your judgment, he is:

- over the age of 21 for BreakThrough and Shadow weekends or over the age of 50 for the Wisdom Years Weekend.
- reasonably normal in his cognitive abilities.
- reasonably competent in his social and occupational functioning.
- willing and able to work effectively in a group setting and to meet the minimum expectations of the group, including dialogue, confidentiality, and safe behavior.
- troubled by personal concerns that align with weekend themes.
 - For the BreakThrough program these include (but are not limited to): depression, isolation, anger, grief, self-loathing, relationship problems, chronic family dysfunction, deaths or separations, other major losses, issues of identity or sexuality, workplace difficulties, and the challenge of recovery from an addiction.
 - For the Wisdom Years program, the concerns are generally associated with aging and may include difficulty with any of the following: life transitions such as retirement, changing roles at home and work, changing relationships with intimate others, health problems, sexuality, deaths among family and friends, a lost sense of purpose, a search for meaning, and a troubling awareness of mortality.

Criteria for Exclusion. The following would typically rule out a man's weekend participation:

- a significant current risk of suicide.
- a severe cognitive impairment.
- a severe impairment in social or occupational functioning.
- a current diagnosis of psychosis or a recent psychotic episode.
- a current and acute psychological or situational crisis.
- a diagnosis of antisocial personality disorder or an inability to control anger or violent behavior.
- a diagnosis of severe anxiety disorder.
- a currently active substance dependence.
- a currently acute or life-threatening medical issue.
- an unwillingness or incapacity to function as part of a group.
- the clinician's opinion that at the present time and despite any potential benefits, weekend participation might in some way prove harmful to the client.

Victories greatly appreciates your referral of men to our weekend programs. We join you in the effort to help men build better relationships, find more satisfying lives, and achieve successful outcomes in their therapy.