

STOP THE ROOM — IF A PARTICIPANT DISCLOSES HARM

Use this when a participant discloses current abuse, sexual violence, intimate-partner violence, intent to harm themselves or someone else, or is visibly in crisis.

1 · PAUSE — calm and brief	“I want to pause us for a moment. Thank you for trusting the room with that. You deserve more than a group conversation can give — can we talk one-on-one right after this, or now if you’d like?”
2 · PROTECT THE ROOM	Co-facilitator moves the group to a grounding break or the buffer activity. Never ask the person to explain in front of the group.
3 · PRIVATE — listen, don’t investigate	Believe them. Do not ask for details or proof. “What you’re telling me matters. What would be most helpful right now?” The adult decides their next step.
4 · BE HONEST ABOUT LIMITS	Most adult disclosures do not require a report, and the choice to report belongs to them. You must report if a child is being abused, or if an older adult (65+) or an adult with a disability is being abused, neglected, or exploited (Texas: DFPS 1-800-252-5400 / txabusehotline.org). Say so before they share more, if it applies.
5 · DANGER OR CRISIS	Immediate danger: call 911. Suicide risk: do not leave them alone; connect to 988 (call or text) and your site counselor.
6 · OFFER RESOURCES	RAINN 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) · National DV Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233), or text START to 88788 · 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline · 211 for local services. Offer to sit with them while they call.
7 · DOCUMENT	Note the time, what you did, and any referral. Write only what is required by your site. No interpretation.
8 · CLOSE THE GROUP + CARE	“This material can land heavily. If anything came up, either of us is available after.” Debrief with your co-facilitator.

NEVER

- Never promise confidentiality you cannot keep.
- Never investigate or ask for details.
- Never pressure an adult to report or to leave a relationship.
- Never discuss it with others who do not need to know.
- Never continue as if nothing happened — name the pause, then move on.

Scenario lines are not disclosures. A real statement about a real person is — even mid-drill.