

Code of Ethics of the Hampton Roads Polyamory

The Hampton Roads Polyamory (hereafter HaRP) affirms the following basic standard of behavior, in order to encourage a safe, supportive and pleasant environment at all HaRP events and to protect HaRP's reputation in the larger society. Every member of HaRP explicitly agrees to abide by this Code of Ethics and other established rules of conduct as a condition for joining the organization and remaining a member.

Honesty Every member shall be truthful in interactions with other HaRP members and with guests at HaRP events.

Respect In interactions with other HaRP members and with guests at HaRP events, every member shall act so as to engender trust by honoring promises and agreements and respecting privacy and personal boundaries, and shall refrain from insensitive, intrusive, violent, coercive, or abusive behavior.

Equality Every member shall honor and respect the dignity of every other member and any guest at a HaRP function by treating every such person as equal with oneself, regardless of the other person's ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation or lifestyle, age, physical appearance or condition, medical condition, or other personal particular.

Rules of Conduct of the Hampton Roads Polyamory

Every member of HaRP and every guest at a HaRP event is expected to abide by the following rules, which amplify the Code of Ethics.

General

1. Do not reveal (without prior permission) to any nonmember the fact of a person's membership in HaRP; the fact of a guest's attendance at any HaRP event; a member's surname, phone number, physical or electronic address, or other identifying information or means of contact; or information about a person's participation in HaRP events.
2. Do not reveal (without prior permission) to any member or nonmember not in attendance any personal information shared during a HaRP-sponsored group discussion.
3. Do not include (without prior permission) the surname of any HaRP member other than yourself, or any means of contact with a member (physical address, e-address, phone number, place of employment, etc.), in any posting to the HaRP listserv or in any other electronic transmission. In the event that another person posts such restricted information, do not forward it or copy and paste it into another transmission of your own (including replying to the original posting in a manner that copies the original text).

4. Do not give, show or make available the confidential portion of the HaRP Newsletter to any nonmember.
5. Do not give, show or make available the HaRP Membership Directory to any nonmember, nor to any member who is not listed therein.
6. Give truthful information to, and do not withhold relevant information from, other members and guests at HaRP events about your own marital or other relationship status; the nature of any agreement that you may have with primary partners as to the conduct of other relationships; the extent to which you practice safe sex with other partners; and any infections or other relevant health information.
7. Refrain from sexually explicit or suggestive behavior at HaRP events other than at times and places designated as "adult with sexual content", and from other behavior reasonably considered offensive, insensitive, coercive, or disrespectful to others.
8. Honor requests from event hosts regarding smoking, alcohol, nudity, or other ground rules; place trash and recyclable items in proper receptacles; and observe other basic principles of courtesy.
9. Individual members and guests are encouraged to attempt first to resolve any questions and incidents involving the Code of Ethics or these rules informally among themselves, communicating fully but at all times in mutually respectful language and manner. A member may, however, bring an incident to the attention of the Board whether or not there has been a prior informal attempt to resolve the matter. If any question remains unresolved after informal discussion among the parties involved, members are requested to report problems to the Board for resolution. In any such event, the Board should be fully informed of the situation.

Event Behavior with Regard to Sexual Matters

1. Attendance at an event with or without sexual content does not imply presumed willingness to participate in sexual activity, in general or with a particular person. Any person at an event may politely decline an invitation or suggestion to join in a sexual activity.
2. If you offer an invitation or suggestion to join you in a sexual activity and you are declined, or if you are accepted but your partner or partners later ask to stop, gracefully accept the refusal or the request to stop as final with no further attempt by you to persuade or to elicit an explanation. In short, "no" means "no".
3. During an event, do not initiate or continue any sexual activity with any person, and do not actively watch any sexual activity, without mutual consent.
4. Members and guests are strongly encouraged to practice safer sex. The host of an adult event with sexual content should provide a supply of condoms for those attending who neglected to bring their own.