

# Language Matters

Language is powerful – especially when talking about addictions.  
Stigmatizing language perpetuates negative perceptions.

“Person first” language focuses on the person, not the disorder.

When Discussing Addictions...

## SAY THIS

## NOT THAT

Person with a substance use disorder

Person living in recovery

Person living with an addiction

Person arrested for drug violation

Chooses not to at this point

Medication is a treatment tool

Had a setback

Maintained recovery

Positive drug screen

Addict, junkie, druggie

Ex-addict

Battling/suffering from an addiction

Drug offender

Non-compliant/bombed out

Medication is a crutch

Relapsed

Stayed clean

Dirty drug screen



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