

## Acoustic Neuroma Chapters Confidentiality Statement

**!! Important !!**

This statement is to be read at all meetings.

Group members have the responsibility to keep personal information shared during the meeting in strict confidence. This is vitally important and establishes trust among the members. Individuals have the right to remain anonymous if they choose. Each group member is free to express his/her opinions knowing that they will remain within the group. Respect will also be a vital component of the group, as members need to feel that their opinions are valued and appreciated.

The members of the group can only provide support and information. Each member must accept responsibility for his or her own physical or mental health. In a crisis, the individual is responsible for seeking medical care.

### **CHAPTER MEMBERS' BILL OF RIGHTS**

(This Bill of Rights should be made available to all group members)

- Members are not obligated to stay for the entire meeting, nor are they obligated to return a second time.
- Each member has the right to decide whether to take part in the discussion.
- Meetings usually begin with brief introductions followed by participants talking informally about individual issues or experiences, asking questions and sharing resources.
- It is important for members to actively listen when someone is talking and not carry on side conversations.
- Members are encouraged to share their experiences, strengths, skills, insights, successes and your hopes.
- Members should avoid giving advice; instead they should share how they dealt with their own situation.
- Allow members to speak for themselves and finish what they are saying without interruption.
- Remember to give everyone an opportunity to share.
- The Facilitator plays an important role in clarifying misconceptions and detailing information. This person can help to arrange for guest speakers as the group determines and provide access to educational material that ANAC may have. (Books, tapes, videos, etc)