

Recovery dialects

Words matter.

Language that is acceptable in one setting can carry stigma in another. Some people in recovery use terms about themselves that would be harmful coming from someone else. Use this guide to choose language that fits where you are — and who is listening.

TERM	SUPPORT MEETING	IN PUBLIC	WITH CLIENTS	MEDICAL SETTINGS	NEWS & MEDIA
Addict	✓	—	—	—	—
Alcoholic	✓	—	—	—	—
Opioid addict	✓	—	—	—	—
Relapse	✓	—	—	—	—
Substance abuser	—	—	—	—	—
Medication-assisted treatment	—	—	—	—	—
Medication for addiction treatment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Person with a substance use disorder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Person with an alcohol use disorder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Person with an opioid use disorder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-term recovery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pharmacotherapy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Appropriate in this setting — Avoid in this setting

CHOOSE KINDNESS

Help is available. Recovery is possible. Call us for education, referrals, or to talk about someone you love.

(262) 658-8166

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