

## **CARING FOR YOURSELF IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULT WORK**

Our work can be overwhelming. Our challenge is to maintain our resilience so that we can keep doing the work with care, energy, and compassion.

### **10 things to do each day**

1. Get enough sleep.
2. Get enough to eat.
3. Vary the work that you do.
4. Do some light exercise.
5. Do something pleasurable.
6. Focus on what you did well.
7. Learn from your mistakes.
8. Share a private joke.
9. Pray, meditate or relax.
10. Support a colleague.

**For More Information see your supervisor or visit [www.istss.org](http://www.istss.org),  
[www.proqol.org](http://www.proqol.org) and [www.compassionfatigue.org](http://www.compassionfatigue.org)**

© Eastwoods, LLC, 2020. Authors: Beth Hudnall Stamm, Craig Higson-Smith, Amy C Hudnall and Henry E Stamm, IV 2004-2020.  
This card may be freely copied and distributed as long as (a) authors are credited, (b) no changes are made, and (c) it is not sold.

## **FOCUSING YOUR EMPATHY**

Your empathy for others helps you do your job. It is important to take good care of your feelings and thoughts by monitoring how you use them. The most resilient workers are those that know how to turn their feelings to work mode when they go on duty, but off-work mode when they go off duty. This is not denial; it is a coping strategy. It is a way they get maximum protection while working (feelings switched to work mode) and maximum support while resting (feelings switched off-work mode).

### **How to become better at switching between Work and Off-Work Modes**

1. Make this a conscious process. Talk to yourself as you switch.
2. Use images that make you feel safe and protected (work-mode) or connected and cared for (non-work mode) to help you switch.
3. Develop rituals that help you switch as you start and stop work.
4. Breathe slowly and deeply to calm yourself when starting a tough job.