

Privacy Policy

Last updated: May 2025

Stories of Mental Strength and Persistence.org ("Site", "we", "our") is a U.S.-based non-profit platform that publishes anonymous stories of resilience submitted by individuals aged 16 or older. This Privacy Policy explains what personal data we collect, how we use it, and the choices and rights available to you under applicable privacy laws, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and, where relevant, the California Consumer Privacy Act/California Privacy Rights Act (CCPA/CPRA).

1. Information We Collect

We collect only the information necessary to operate the Site:

- **Story Submissions:** the text you choose to provide, your chosen display name or "Anonymous," and the age confirmation checkbox.
- **Contact Details:** email address (optional) when you submit a story or join our "Notify Me" list.
- **Technical Data:** IP address, browser type, and basic usage analytics collected through first-party cookies or similar technologies.

2. How We Use Your Information

We use your data to:

- Review and publish submissions anonymously;
- Contact you about your submission if necessary;
- Send launch notifications (if you joined the mailing list);
- Monitor, secure, and improve Site performance.

3. Legal Bases for Processing (GDPR)

For individuals in the EU/EEA or UK, we rely on:

- **Consent:** for publishing your story and sending optional email updates;
- **Legitimate Interests:** to maintain Site security and basic analytics.

4. Cookies and Similar Technologies

We use minimal, first-party cookies for security and aggregated analytics, such as Google Analytics to understand how visitors interact with the site. These tools may use anonymized cookies. No third-party advertising cookies are employed. You may disable cookies in your browser; the Site will remain usable.

5. Data Retention

Published stories remain on the Site indefinitely unless the author requests removal or we remove the content under our Terms. Email addresses are retained until an unsubscribe request is received or the mailing list is deleted.

6. Data Security

We employ reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect your information. No internet transmission is completely secure, so we cannot guarantee absolute security.

7. Sharing of Information

We do not sell or rent your personal data. We may share information only:

- With service providers who assist in operating the Site (e.g., email service), bound by confidentiality;
- If required by law or to protect the rights, safety, or property of the Site or its users.

8. International Transfers

The Site is hosted in the United States. If you access it from outside the U.S., you acknowledge that your data will be transferred to and processed in the U.S. where privacy laws may be different from those in your jurisdiction.

9. Your Rights

- 9.1 EU/EEA & UK Users (GDPR)

You have the right to access, correct, delete, restrict, or object to our processing of your personal data and to data portability. You may also withdraw consent at any time. Contact us to exercise these rights.

- 9.2 California Residents (CCPA/CPRA)

While the Site currently falls below CCPA thresholds, California residents may nonetheless request:

- Disclosure of categories of personal information collected;
- Deletion of personal information we hold;
- Information about data sharing practices. We do not sell personal data.

To exercise any of these rights, please contact us at the email provided on the Site. We may need to verify your identity before responding. Once we receive your request, we aim to reply within one month.

10. Children's Information

This Site is not directed to children under 16, and we do not knowingly collect personal information from anyone under 16. If you believe a child under 16 has provided personal data, contact us and we will delete it promptly.

11. Changes to This Policy

We may update this Privacy Policy any time. Changes take effect when posted on this page.

12. Contact Us

For privacy questions or requests, please use the Site's contact form or email us.

By using this Site, you acknowledge that you have read and understood this Privacy Policy.