

Number: TBD
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 24, 1999

PROCEDURE TEMPLATE

Policy Area: Domestic Violence

Issue: Domestic Violence Counseling Groups

Action/Guidance: **Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) – Treatment**

Context: The DVIP serves domestic violence offenders referred by the Domestic Violence Supervision Team (DVST). The purpose of the DVIP is to reduce battering behavior in intimate relationships through the use of a psycho/educational treatment model, by providing group counseling services to persons who either admit to, or are found guilty of, any offense related to domestic conflict.

Whereas the DVST supervises the offender and encourages compliance with conditions of release, the DVIP serves as the treatment component. The program engages the offender in 22 weeks of group counseling sessions facilitated by specially trained CSOs and community service providers. The DVIP is a fee and non-fee-based program. Offenders with financial resources pay private vendors for services based upon a sliding scale fee of \$5.00 to \$15.00 per session. During the 22-week group counseling sessions, the offender continues to report to his/her supervising CSO as scheduled.

I. Procedures:

A. Eligibility

The DVIP accepts domestic violence offenders who are mandated by the court to receive counseling as a condition of one of the following court orders:

- Civil Protection Order;
- Deferred Sentencing Agreement;
- Judgment and Commitment Order (Probation Order); or
- Out-of-State Supervision (as approved through the Interstate Compact Office).

Exceptions:

- Offenders suffering from untreated psychiatric, psychological or emotional disorders, including untreated drug and/or alcohol problems are ineligible to participate in the program.
- Offenders with a probation term of less than six months are also ineligible.

B. Referral Process:

1. Offenders are directed by the Court to the Adult Probation Intake Unit.
2. The Intake Unit schedules offenders to meet with their DVST CSO (usually two weeks after the Court hearing).

3. The offender reports to the assigned CSO who completes a three page referral form and schedules the offender for an orientation session with the DVIP.

C. Program Requirements

1. Intake Process:

- a. The supervising CSO forwards the completed referral packages and an orientation group roster (the orientation group roster is a list of offenders that the DVST has scheduled for orientation sessions in a particular week) to the DVIP Program Manager/SCSO.
- b. The community supervision assistant prepares a sign-in sheet for the orientation session and prepares a case file for each offender. Based upon the offender's income, the community supervision assistant forwards the case file to either the CSO who coordinates vendor services or the CSO who coordinates non-fee services.
- c. Specially trained CSOs conduct a three-hour orientation session. During the orientation session, the designated CSO/facilitator:
 - introduces the DVIP program staff, describing their training and experience;
 - distributes the DVIP participant manual;
 - reviews the treatment program philosophy, goals and objectives;
 - discusses local and national domestic violence laws;
 - explains what program concepts and skills will be covered during the 22-week batterers' treatment sessions;
 - discusses the definition of domestic violence and introduces the Duluth Power and Control Wheel instructional model;
 - reads, explains, and requires each offender to sign the DVIP participant program contract, which sets forth program rules, guidelines and regulations governing participation in treatment (fee-based and non-fee based) sessions; and
 - allows offenders to introduce themselves, discuss their current domestic violence charges, and explain why they are in the batterers' treatment program. (This is to determine whether participants are willing, at this stage, to take responsibility for their violent and abusive behavior.)
- d. At the completion of the orientation session, offenders with financial resources are referred by the coordinator for vendor services to a private vendor. The Program Manager/SCSO assigns offenders without financial resources to a DVIP CSO for treatment.

2. General Case Management/Supervision:

a. Screening:

The DVIP does not conduct an initial case screening.

b. Assessment/Evaluation:

The DVIP CSO completes a formal progress assessment report for the offender's file after the eleventh group session. The assessment gauges the

offender's progress in the program and his/her willingness to accept responsibility for past/current use of violent and controlling behavior. The results of the assessment may result in additional sessions, if needed.

c. **Special Conditions:**

None.

d. **Supervision/Treatment Plan:**

The DVIP utilizes the eight theme Duluth Educational Model curriculum which includes the following concepts: Non-Violence, Non-Threatening Behavior, Respect, Trust & Support, Honesty & Accountability, Sexual Respect, Partnership, Negotiation and Fairness. The group sessions are conducted by Duluth Model Certified CSOs (on staff) and Court approved community-based service providers (private vendors). The eight themes are discussed progressively over the 22-week treatment process.

Offenders attend a two-hour group session once per week. They are required to actively participate in the group session by discussing their violent behavior with other group members. Offenders are also required to complete homework assignments and bring their DVIP manual to class. During the course of the 22-week program, offenders continue to report to their supervising CSO in accordance with their designated supervision level.

e. **Referrals:**

All referrals (substance abuse, employment, mental health, medical, etc.) are channeled to the supervising CSO. If the DVIP CSO determines that the offender needs to be referred to treatment, he/she contacts the supervising CSO to suggest that a referral be made.

f. **Case Conference/Staffing:**

Staffings are conducted monthly between the Program Manager/SCSO and CSOs. The CSO facilitates a group discussion of one of his/her cases. The CSO discusses the offender's general performance as well as any pertinent issues. The staffings are conducted in a peer group format to allow the individuals present to provide feedback to the facilitating CSO. Vendor cases (fee-based) are not staffed.

g. **Program Completion/Discharge/Transition/Termination:**

- Offenders are discharged from the program either through successful completion or termination. To successfully complete the program, offenders must openly discuss their violent and abusive behavior, bring all materials to the session, complete all homework assignments, and attend all 22 group sessions. All offenders will complete the program successfully unless they are terminated before the end of the 22-week term.
- When the offender is discharged from the program, either through successful completion or termination, the CSO completes the termination or

completion report and forwards it to the Program Manager/SCSO. The report contains an assessment of the offender's overall performance as it relates to understanding and applying the concepts set forth in the Duluth Model curriculum, conduct in the group sessions, and progress in adjusting his/her approach to dealing with violence and abuse. Offenders who complete the program successfully sign a contract with the DVIP agreeing to remain violence free. A copy of the contract is filed in the supervision case file.

- The Program Manager/SCSO reviews and approves the report (termination or completion) and forwards it to the supervising CSO.
- The CSO provides offenders who complete the program successfully with a Client Status Report, which is a brief appraisal of the offender's performance and a verification of his/her program completion.

3. Sanctions/Incentives:

Any absence results in an offender having to attend an additional session. Disruptive behavior, being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol during a group session, failure to complete homework assignments, and/or failure to bring program materials to the session results in expulsion from the group session. The offender must attend a make up session at the end of the program.

An offender may be terminated from the program due to repeated incidents of the behavior noted above or re-abuse (a new verifiable incident of abusive and controlling behavior).

The DVIP staff may be ordered to testify at revocation or review hearings regarding violations of program rules and/or re-occurrence of abuse or violence.

II. Statutory Authority: Section 11232 (b)(2) of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 ("Revitalization Act"), Pub. Law 105-33, 111 Stat. 712, D.C. Code §§ 24-1231 *et seq.* (1996 Repl., 1999 Supp.) (Trustee's authority); D.C. Code § 24-201 *et seq.* (1996 Repl.) (Probation's authority); D.C. Code § 24-201.2(a)(3) and 28 D.C.M.R. § 213 (1987) (Parole's authority).

III. Procedural References/Supercedures:

- References: Domestic Violence Program Manual; Court intake procedures.
- Supercedes: None