



**COMMUNITY
CORRECTIONS RESPONSE
TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:**

G U I D E L I N E S F O R P R A C T I C E

Community Corrections Response to Domestic Violence: Guidelines for Practice

A training program presented by the
**U. S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women**
in partnership with the
American Probation and Parole Association

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION TRAINING FOR JURISDICTIONAL TEAMS

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) in partnership with the National Center for State Courts and the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, has developed guidelines for the community supervision of domestic violence offenders. The project was funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. A list of these guidelines is attached.

APPA is offering free training and technical assistance to a limited number of selected jurisdictions that will implement these guidelines. Through a competitive application process, jurisdictional teams will be selected to develop or enhance their community corrections response to domestic violence. Selected teams will receive:

- Two days of classroom training for six team members.
- Ongoing technical assistance on selected topics for incorporating the guidelines into their community corrections programs.
- Free training through classroom or distance learning technologies for line officers implementing the guidelines.

A series of two-day training events will be held in the following locations:

- Minneapolis, Minnesota (September 29 – 30, 2009)
- White Plains, New York (November 4 – 5, 2009)
- Portland, Oregon (December 9 – 10, 2009)

Jurisdictional teams are encouraged, although not required, to select the training event closest in proximity to their jurisdiction.

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ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants under this initiative are limited to teams from jurisdictions that have demonstrated a commitment to enhancing the community supervision of domestic violence offenders through interagency collaboration. APPA, in conjunction with OVW, will select up to 15 teams. Teams should consist of representatives from a variety of agencies within a jurisdiction, including community corrections, law enforcement, judicial, prosecution, victim advocacy/services, and batterer intervention programs. Applicants must designate a team point of contact. Any participating agency may submit the team's complete application.

Teams will be selected for participation in the jurisdictional team training based on the following criteria:

- Team composition;
- Purpose/Rationale for applying;
- Organizational capability and commitment to implement the guidelines;
- Community and agency support for guidelines implementation;
- Capability for data collection and evaluation; and,
- Letter of Commitment, signed by all team members.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR JURISDICTIONAL TEAMS

- Team members should complete the application and submit it by July 15, 2009, using the attached application form. Applications may be submitted by:
 - Fax to Carrie Abner at (859) 244-8001
 - E-mail to Carrie Abner at cabner@csg.org
 - Postal Mail to Carrie Abner at 2760 Research Park Drive, Lexington, KY 40511.
- Teams should be composed of representatives from community corrections, law enforcement, judicial, prosecution victim service providers, and batterer intervention programs. Individuals identified to participate in the training should have the ability to make or influence policy decisions within their respective agencies, including the following core members:
 - Community corrections administrator
 - Domestic violence victim advocacy agency director
 - Representative of the court (e.g., judge) or paroling authority
 - Batterer program director (if available)
 - Prosecutor
 - Law enforcement executive

If other options for team membership are needed, please contact Carrie Abner at cabner@csg.org.

- Teams should have the capacity to implement the guidelines within one year, be willing to place a high priority on supervision of domestic violence offenders, and have the ability to shift necessary resources to implement the guidelines.
- Teams should be willing to and capable of collecting evaluation data, such as demographic data on offenders, services provided, compliance with conditions of supervision, sanctions imposed, and new crimes committed.
- All team members should be willing to prepare for and engage fully in the training program.

OBLIGATIONS OF APPA:

- Provide 2 days of instruction and all training materials.
- Provide two working lunches.
- Provide ongoing technical assistance.

OBLIGATIONS OF SELECTED TEAMS:

- Provide transportation, lodging, meals and incidental costs of team members to attend the training. Arrest Program grantees may use grant travel funds set aside for OVW-sponsored training and technical assistance to support these costs.
- Prepare for the training by reviewing the document, *Community Corrections' Response to Domestic Violence: Guidelines for Practice* (which will be mailed to team members).
- Further prepare for the training by participating in APPA-provided distance learning opportunities, including a three hour CD-ROM training (Domestic Violence and The Role of Community Corrections) and an eight hour free web training (Domestic Violence: Fundamentals for Community Corrections Practice).
- Fully engage in the training and develop an Action Plan for implementation of the guidelines.
- Implement the guidelines for community supervision of domestic violence offenders following the training event.
- Direct line officers to participate in project training opportunities listed above.
- Seek additional technical assistance from APPA project staff as needed.

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TRAINING APPLICATION

Contact Information

Jurisdiction Name (e.g., state, county, municipality, tribal) _____

Is the applicant an Arrest Grantee? Yes No

Team Coordinator (contact person) _____

Title _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Training Event Preferences

Please check the training event(s) that your jurisdictional team is interested in attending. If checking multiple events, please number the events in order or your preference. All attempts will be made to match jurisdictional teams with their preferred training event.

_____ Minneapolis, MN (September 29 – 30, 2009)

_____ White Plains, NY (November 4 – 5, 2009)

_____ Portland, OR (December 9 – 10, 2009)

JURISDICTIONAL DESCRIPTION

Please check the characteristics that best describe your jurisdiction and provide additional requested information.

Jurisdiction Setting	Jurisdiction Type	Jurisdiction Size
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> City	Approximate population of jurisdiction
<input type="checkbox"/> Suburban	<input type="checkbox"/> County	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Urban	<input type="checkbox"/> State	Approximate number of domestic violence offenders
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal	currently supervised in the community
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	_____

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT STAGE

- No current community corrections supervision program for domestic violence offenders.
- Program development for community corrections supervision of domestic violence offenders is in beginning stages (please describe in question 2 below).
- Intermediate stages of program development for community corrections supervision of domestic violence offenders (please describe in question 2 below).

Please provide any further information that would help us understand your jurisdiction.

**PLEASE RESPOND BRIEFLY TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.
(USE ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NEEDED.)**

1. Why is it important to your team and your jurisdiction to develop or enhance your community supervision of domestic violence offenders through the implementation of APPA's Guidelines? _____

2. What are the biggest barriers to enhancing the community supervision of domestic violence offenders in your jurisdiction? How might this training help your jurisdiction overcome these barriers? _____

3. Has your jurisdiction taken steps to demonstrate its capacity and commitment to enhance the community supervision of domestic violence offenders? Please indicate all actions taken to date:

- Dedicated financial resources to enhance supervision practices
- Dedicated staff and/or unit for supervising domestic violence offenders
- Developed and/or provided training on domestic violence to community corrections staff
- Established inter-agency efforts (community coordinating council, etc.) to plan and evaluate domestic violence case management practices, including community supervision of domestic violence offenders
- Currently, no steps have been taken to enhance the community supervision of domestic violence offenders
- Other, please describe below. _____

TEAM ROSTER

Please identify each team member by name, title, and organizational affiliation and provide appropriate contact information. Each team member should also provide a signature.

Community Corrections

Name: _____
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____
Signature: _____

Victims Advocacy/Services

Name: _____
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____
Signature: _____

Court/Paroling Authority

Name: _____
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____
Signature: _____

Batterer Intervention Program

Name: _____
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____
Signature: _____

Prosecution

Name: _____
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____
Signature: _____

Law Enforcement

Name: _____
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____
Signature: _____

Other

Name: _____
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____
Signature: _____

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JURISDICTIONAL TEAM TRAINING CURRICULUM

Training Goal

Jurisdictional teams will develop an action plan for implementation of the guidelines for community supervision of domestic violence offenders.

Training Objectives: By the conclusion of the training, participants will be able to

- Identify potential barriers for organizational change to implement the guidelines and strategies for overcoming these barriers.
- Write a mission statement and goal(s) for their program to supervise domestic violence offenders in the community.
- Select legal issues for further exploration in their home jurisdiction
- Recognize diverse cultural groups within the jurisdiction's service population (i.e., offenders and victims) and identify strategies to adapt programs to meet their needs.
- List risk factors for domestic violence recidivism and danger and determine how they will assess for these.
- Create at least three policies for domestic violence offender supervision.
- Determine procedures for making safe contact with victims and keeping victim information confidential.
- Develop a process for sharing information between batterer programs and community corrections agencies and how offenders will be held accountable for enrolling, attending, and participating in batterer programs.
- Design a policy and procedures for addressing employee victims or perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Specify further training or technical assistance needed by the jurisdiction.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

DAY 1

8:00 A.M. – 8:15 A.M.	Coffee
8:15 A.M. – 9:15 A.M.	Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping, etc.
9:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.	Break
9:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.	Module 1: Where Are We Now?
10:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.	Break
11:00 A.M. – 11:50 A.M.	Module 2: Legal Issues in the Supervision of DV Offenders
11:50 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Break
12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Working Lunch
1:00 P.M. – 1:15 P.M.	Break
1:15 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.	Module 3: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Addressing Domestic Violence
2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.	Team Vision, Value & Goals
3:00 P.M. – 3:10 P.M.	Break
3:10 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.	Module 4: Victim Safety
4:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.	Team Work—Developing an Action Plan

DAY 2

8:00 A.M. – 8:15 A.M.	Coffee
8:15 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.	Module 5: Risk Factors and Case Investigation
9:45 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.	Break
10:00 A.M. – 11:50 A.M.	Module 6: Offender Accountability
11:50 A.M. – 12:00 p.M.	Break
12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Working Lunch—Team Work
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.	Module 6 (continued): Offender Accountability
2:00 P.M. – 2:45 P.M.	Module 7: Batterer Programs
2:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.	Break
3:00 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.	Module 8: Employee-Involved Domestic Violence
3:45 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.	Team Reports
4:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.	Next Steps, Summary & Closing

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS' RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE

Guidelines for Professionalism and Ethical Practice

GUIDELINE 1:

Community corrections programs and professionals develop active partnerships with domestic violence advocates and other justice system and community organizations and personnel working with offenders or victims to better understand domestic violence and unite in common efforts to promote victim safety.

GUIDELINE 2:

Community corrections professionals engage in ongoing learning opportunities on domestic violence.

GUIDELINE 3:

Community corrections professionals maintain high standards of professional integrity and consciously avoid unintended reinforcement of domestic violence.

GUIDELINE 4:

Community corrections professionals are knowledgeable about and capable of working with offenders, victims, community members, and other professionals from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Guidelines for Case Investigation

GUIDELINE 5:

A consistent, thorough prerelease, presentence, or intake investigation is conducted in all cases of intimate partner domestic violence.

GUIDELINE 6:

Community corrections professionals use effective interviewing strategies appropriate for each person involved in a case.

GUIDELINE 7:

Community corrections professionals identify and investigate for the presence of known risk factors for domestic violence reabuse and danger.

GUIDELINE 8:

Community corrections professionals follow established criteria and protocols for making decisions about the preadjudication release or continuation in custody of intimate partner domestic violence perpetrators.

GUIDELINE 9:

If a standard risk assessment instrument is used in the agency, protocols are in place to override scores based on the presence of domestic violence risk factors that indicate higher risk.

GUIDELINE 10:

Community corrections professionals periodically reassess offenders convicted of and supervised for other crimes to identify those who are also abusing their intimate partners.

GUIDELINE 11:

Investigation of domestic violence offenders is ongoing with new information, violations, pending hearings, or reports from programs prompting immediate scrutiny. Program personnel regularly check for existing or new protective orders or indicators of new criminal conduct and respond to these by investigating them and intervening appropriately.

GUIDELINE 12:

Community corrections professionals independently verify information provided by victims that will be used in sentencing or sanctioning offenders.

Guidelines for Community Supervision and Enforcement

GUIDELINE 13:

Recommended sentences, supervision conditions, and case plans match the level of appraised risk and provide community corrections personnel with the tools and authority needed to hold offenders accountable and promote victim safety.

GUIDELINE 14:

The process of moving cases through investigation, sentencing and intake is expedited so that supervision begins as soon as possible.

GUIDELINE 15:

Initial supervision is intensive and occurs within a context of ongoing evaluation of risk; differential supervision and intervention options are implemented based on risk level changes. Supervision strategies should foster victim safety, offender accountability, and offender behavior change.

GUIDELINE 16:

Offenders are required to maintain abstinence from alcohol and other drugs.

GUIDELINE 17:

Offenders are required to relinquish firearms or other known weapons.

GUIDELINE 18:

Community corrections professionals are aware of stalking behaviors and the threat they represent to victims and employ supervision strategies that prohibit stalking by the offender and promote victim safety.

GUIDELINE 19:

Community corrections professionals thoroughly document activities, findings, and problems related to case supervision.

GUIDELINE 20:

Protocols and strategies are adapted as needed to be culturally sensitive.

GUIDELINE 21:

Community corrections personnel remain vigilant about their own and others' safety during the course of supervision.

GUIDELINE 22:

Community corrections professionals impose immediate responses for any violations of supervision conditions.

GUIDELINE 23:

Warrants for violators and absconders are processed and served expeditiously.

GUIDELINE 24:

Procedures are followed for promoting victim safety when a cross-jurisdictional placement and supervision of a domestic violence offender is requested or carried out.

Guidelines for Victim Safety and Autonomy

GUIDELINE 25:

Community corrections professionals contact domestic violence victims using methods that promote victim safety and provide victims with information that will help them make decisions about their safety.

GUIDELINE 26:

Community corrections professionals discuss risk assessment information with the victim.

GUIDELINE 27:

Further periodic contact occurs with the consent of victims unless they are being notified of an escalation in their risk or a change in the case status.

GUIDELINE 28:

Community corrections professionals validate the experiences of domestic violence victims, provide encouragement and assistance to victims, promote their safety, and actively support each victim's right to autonomy and self-determination.

GUIDELINE 29:

Community corrections professionals protect the confidentiality of victim information.

GUIDELINE 30:

Community corrections professionals assist victims with preliminary safety planning and refer them to domestic violence victim advocates for additional safety planning assistance.

GUIDELINE 31:

Community corrections professionals recognize the risks of separation violence to victims and monitor cases closely to warn victims of related risks, and hold offenders accountable.

GUIDELINE 32:

Community corrections professionals identify additional victims of the perpetrator (if any) other than the victim of record and contact them with information that will help them make decisions about their safety.

GUIDELINE 33:

Women offenders on community supervision are screened for a history of or current domestic violence, and if abuse is present, they are provided the same supportive services as are nonoffender victims.

GUIDELINE 34:

Community corrections professionals are cognizant of the risks to children and others living with an abuser, report suspected abuse or neglect as mandated, and share appropriate information about the offender's behavior to assist in decisionmaking about the safety of the victim and others living with domestic violence.

Guidelines for Batterer Intervention Programs

GUIDELINE 35:

Batterer intervention programs are used in conjunction with community supervision protocols. The primary focus of a batterer intervention program is offender accountability; any rehabilitative benefits for offenders are secondary. The goal is stopping the violence and abuse.

GUIDELINE 36:

Batterer intervention programs conform to appropriate standards that have been developed in partnership with domestic violence advocacy organizations.

GUIDELINE 37:

Community corrections professionals discuss with victims the purpose and limitations of batterer programs.

GUIDELINE 38:

There is regular communication between batterer intervention program personnel and community corrections officers regarding attendance, participation, and progress of offenders in these programs. Community corrections professionals respond immediately when offenders fail to comply with court-ordered program attendance and participation.

GUIDELINE 39:

Where possible, batterer intervention programs accommodate offenders with special needs or diverse cultural backgrounds.

GUIDELINE 40:

Female domestic violence offenders do not attend batterer intervention program groups with male offenders.

GUIDELINE 41:

Batterer intervention programs have protocols for assessing for and referring offenders with substance abuse or mental health problems to appropriate treatment programs, when indicated.



A project of the
AMERICAN PROBATION AND PAROLE ASSOCIATION

In partnership with the
NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS
THE NEW YORK STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

and the
SAFE RETURN INITIATIVE OF THE INSTITUTE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN
THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

With funding from
OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE